









# Ombudsman complains he has 'less power than any in the world'

By Robin Young

The British Ombudsman has the least adequate powers of any in the world, the retiring Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, Sir Cecil Clothier, suggests in his last annual report, published today.

Sir Cecil says that Britain is alone among the 100 countries with national ombudsmen in not allowing the Ombudsman to initiate his own investigations. He also regrets that no government has accepted the strong recommendations of successive select committees that he should be able to investigate personnel and contractual or commercial matters.

This restriction, Sir Cecil says, is peculiar to Britain, and in part only to England, Wales and Scotland since in Northern Ireland the Parliamentary Commissioner is able to examine personnel matters.

"I have felt it a reflection on a parliamentary democracy which prides itself on its considerate attitude towards its citizens that this country alone should impose such a restriction," Sir Cecil writes.

He adds that in five years in office he has also lost faith in the "familiar arguments" which "I have often deployed" that access to the Ombudsman should only be through members of Parliament.

Those dissatisfied with the ultimate response from their MPs, Sir Cecil suggests, should have the right to bring their complaint to the Ombudsman. It would be unlikely to lead to a large increase in acceptable complaints, but would be an

improvement on the present system, Sir Cecil says.

Nearly half the work of his term of office, he calculates, has been concerned with complaints about tax and social security. In more than half those cases, investigation showed that mistakes had been made.

Sir Cecil blames legal complexities but adds that these are inevitable. "One can only try to have a good system for investigating allegations of error and providing a remedy when the allegations are well-founded."

In 1983 the Parliamentary Commissioner dealt with 809 complaints. The number of full investigations completed was 198, of which 83 were found fully justified and 72 partly justified.

Of 51 complaints against the Department of Health and Social Security which the

Ombudsman investigated in 1983, three led to changes in DHSS practice.

Computer programs were rewritten so that cheques to cover two benefits are now clearly annotated with the dates for which each has been paid.

The DHSS abandoned carbon-copy forms for applications for industrial disablement benefit which had led to delays in making payments.

Among 39 complaints against the Inland Revenue investigated, one led the Revenue to drop a demand for £37,000 PAYE claimed from an employer who had received an assessment for four years' arrears after being told by the tax office that subsistence payments to his workers would not be taxable.

Another investigation in which mishandling was proved led to a remission of just £14.

But in another case the Ombudsman dismissed an accountant's claim that the Revenue had tried to force him into bankruptcy by delaying tax repayments due to his clients.

Five complaints were investigated against the Ministry of Agriculture, but two were dismissed. In one of those a farmer had written more than 100 letters of complaint over ten years, alleging that the Ministry had not done what it should to stop the spread of ragwort on his land.

Sir Cecil concluded that the farmer "had resorted to exaggeration and abuse", dismissed the complaint, and commended the Ministry for the patience it had shown.



Sir Cecil Clothier. 'Hampered by restrictions'.

## Public may vet law complaints

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Consumer demand will force the legal profession to involve laymen in its complaints procedures, according to a leading official of the Law Society of Scotland.

Mr Kenneth Pritchard, its secretary, said that the legal profession should not oppose such changes.

"Probably within the next two years we will have lay members on our complaints committee, not because they can add or do anything but because I believe the consumer movement will demand a lay element to see justice is being done."

Lawyers should not fear the involvement of the public, Mr Pritchard said. They would do an excellent job and bring a desirable measure of objectivity.

"I don't believe for one moment we should resist the introduction of a lay element. I believe it will come."

Under pressure to reform its complaints procedures, the Law Society of England and Wales is considering including laymen after the Claville Davies affair, which involved a solicitor who was struck off for gross professional misconduct after over-charging a client by £131,000.

The society's own internal report on the affair condemned its handling of the case as a "disgrace".

Under plans to be considered at the society's next council meeting in April, it is proposed that two laymen and two solicitors who are not council members should be brought in to provide an independent element in the investigation of complaints.

It is also suggested that a national scheme be set up, possibly through local law societies, in which solicitors would be specially assigned to interview complainants and advise them.



Met on its mettle: The Princess of Wales yesterday receiving a few handy hints on mob control, the handling of street disputes and self-defence during a display at Peel Centre police training ground, Hendon, north London.

A police recruit, Mr Robert Earl, aged 21, presented the royal guest with a silver-

plated police whistle and chain and a half-size truncheon.

The Princess of Wales's keen interest in the display, which included a mounted police charge, resulted in her visit running behind schedule because of her insistence on speaking to those taking part.

(Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

## House prices rise by 14% a year

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

House prices in Britain are rising at an annual rate of 14 per cent compared with an increase of 12 per cent for last year, the Nationwide Building Society announced yesterday.

Its latest house price index shows that the annual increase remains well ahead of the estimated rise in retail prices (5 per cent) and annual earnings (7 per cent).

In the first quarter of this year, before the effects of the reduction in the mortgage rate and Budget changes could be

felt, house prices in Britain increased on average by 3.5 per cent.

The average price of all properties has risen to £29,690. During the first quarter there was a 1 per cent reduction in prices recorded in Scotland and no change in the northern region of England, while the West Midlands and outer metropolitan area showed an increase of 4 per cent and Greater London and the outer South-east an increase of 5 per cent.

DETACHED HOUSE AVERAGE PRICES, JANUARY - MARCH 1984		
	Modern	Older
Scotland	36,310	34,300
N Ireland	33,620	33,240
North	36,340	34,250
North-West	37,340	40,250
Yorkshire	34,980	38,710
Wales	36,280	32,150
West Midlands	36,250	30,250
East Midlands	33,750	30,970
East Anglia	39,720	44,050
South-West	42,720	43,520
Outer South-East	45,130	52,630
Outer Metropolitan	61,820	64,570
Greater London	68,810	65,510
United Kingdom	42,000	44,760

Insufficient sample

## 'Gay Jesus' hint in film condemned

Leading churchmen and religious historians condemned a new television series to be shown on Channel 4 next month which implies that Jesus could have been a homosexual. They claim the three-part series, called *Jesus - The Evidence*, and made by London Weekend Television, is distorted and unreliable.

The series also asks questions such as: did Jesus exist? Did the miracles ever happen and could the healing miracles be explained by hypnosis? Did Jesus rise from the dead? and, did Matthew, Mark, Luke and John really write the gospels?

The three hour-long programmes will go out on Sundays from April 8, but already they are causing a furore in church circles. So far, more than 40 leading theologians and church leaders have signed a joint statement strongly regretting the imbalance in the LWT series.

The series' production team said yesterday that there would be a wide-ranging televised debate when the series ended so that protesters could put their case and points of view.

## Magazine marks a century

By Alan Hamilton

The toast yesterday in the South Bank office block that houses the IPC Magazine empire was the chase, the turf, and the road. *Horse and Hound* magazine, the weekly Bible of all who take their sport in the saddle, was celebrating its centenary.

*Horse and Hound* was founded in 1884 as "a magazine of agriculture and sport", with a 2d cover price.

Now at 80p, and with a 75,000 circulation, it still claims to be Britain's only weekly covering the entire sporting spectrum of the horse.

The anniversary was marked by a celebratory dinner last night attended by Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips.

The editor, Mr Michael Clayton, a former BBC reporter, whose relaxation is hunting, takes a detached view of royal participation in equestrian events.

"We are a serious newspaper," he said. "If Princess Anne falls off a horse, or Prince Philip overturns while carriage-driving, we will report it as a matter of fact."

He added: "We have every reason for optimism. The appeal of the horse as a means of getting out into the countryside, away from towns which are becoming steadily less attractive to live in, can only increase."

## 'Nasties' evidence in doubt

The survey that claimed that nearly half of children aged seven to sixteen had seen a horrific video film has been questioned by evidence which shows that children do not know the difference between television programmes and films.

Two psychologists from Aston University were so concerned about the research produced by Dr Clifford EBH, of Oxford Polytechnic, that they took his questionnaire into schools - but changed one crucial aspect. They substituted some fabricated film titles for real films.

The survey reported yesterday that 68 per cent of 11-year-olds claim to have seen films which do not exist. The psychologists said: "Our opinion is that Dr Hill's questionnaire is far too confusing for even 11-year-olds to answer sensibly."

The two, Dr Guy Cumberbatch and Mr Paul Bates, said: "Frankly we found it embarrassing to waste the time of children and teachers on it."

The researchers say that their evidence is so serious that it questions the original survey. After administering the questionnaire to five classes of 11-year-olds, Dr Cumberbatch and Mr Bates said: "The pattern of results was so stable that we could see no point in continuing."

The Bill which seeks to outlaw "video nasties" is now in the House of Lords.

## Ronay laments lack of first-rate pubs

"Pub crawling" is a spirit-riding business for Egon Ronay's inspectors. For the grand inspector's 1984 *Guinness Pub Guide*, published today, they made their way to more than 2,700 recommended hostilities and found only 947, just over a third, that they thought worthy of inclusion.

"The sad truth is that we have to keep digging even more deeply and widely with very poor results," Mr Ronay laments. "The water-tin coverage of certain areas is not our fault but that of the pubs."

So it is that the home of Newcastle Brown is judged to have but one public house worth mentioning. Even then it fares better than much of Yorkshire, the supposed home of good beer. Bradford, Leeds, and Sheffield are all judged devoid of commendable public houses, and so are Keighley, Halifax, Dewsbury, Barnsley, Doncaster, and Scunthorpe.

In London, the Ronay inspectors tested 62 public houses newly recommended to them, but only eight were thought worth an entry.

Mr Ronay judges public houses more by the food they serve than the beer, but says that the importance of food sales in public houses is greater than ever.

Nearly nine-tenths of the public houses included in the book said that they would not be financially viable without the sale of food. Two thirds said that more than three quarters of the food they served was "home-made", but elsewhere, Mr Ronay says, that phrase was used to describe "a few salad leaves lying limply in the contents of some convenience pack".

Some recommended public houses serve bar food that is not just very good but "exquisite", Mr Ronay says, producing dishes that would be worthy of starred restaurants in his *Hotel and Restaurant Guide*.

The Rhydyspace Inn at Whitney-on-Wye is chosen as Pub of the Year, commended for "charming accommodation, marvellous bar food, and authentic atmosphere".

Egon Ronay's *Guinness Pub Guide 1984 to Food and Accommodation*. (Mitchell Beazley, £3.95).

## Royal Court day of decision

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Theatrical luminaries of the stature of Samuel Beckett, Sir Michael Redgrave, and Sir Peter Hall have set themselves in the ranks of its supporters, but the Royal Court Theatre remains pessimistic about the fate which will be outlined to it today.

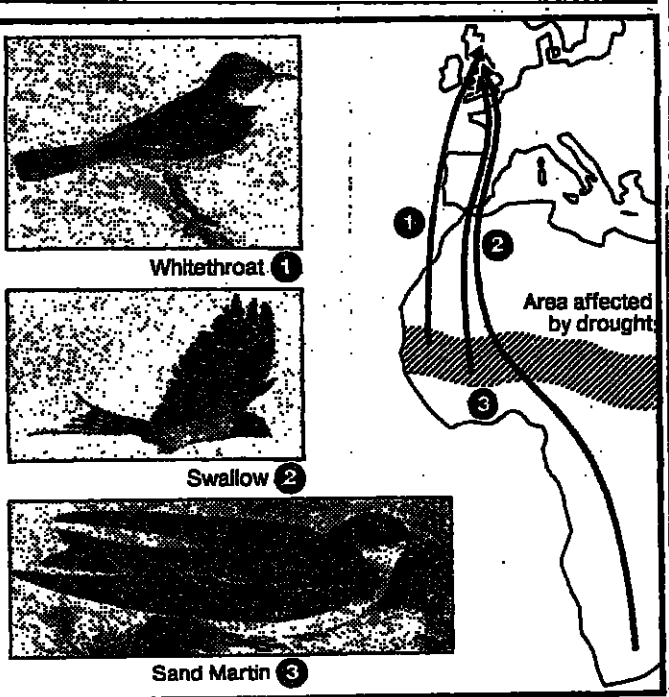
The theatre, home of the English Stage Company for 28 years, is likely to be one of the best known names on the list of grants cuts announced by the Arts Council as part of a policy of shifting funds from London to the regions.

The London stage, which Mr Max Stafford-Clark, its artistic director, describes as "the National Theatre of new writing", relies on £483,000 from the council and £21,000 from the Greater London Council. If the Arts Council grant disappears or is cut substantially, a number of members of the council's own advisory drama panel are expected to resign in protest at the action.

With the abolition of the GLC threatening what remains of the theatre's income, the prospect of closure seems greater than at any period in the company's history, though there are those who are convinced that a last-minute deal will emerge to enable it to survive.

In recent years, the Royal Court has cut its main-hall productions from eight or nine a year to four, and its small upstairs hall from eight or nine to three so that it can live within its grants.

It attracts average audiences of 55 per cent capacity, and expects to make a modest surplus this year through the popularity of its most recent play, *Tom and Viv*.



## Drought takes toll of migrant birds

By Kenneth Gossling

Severe drought south of the Sahara, which has brought starvation and misery to thousands of Africans, is expected to have a marked effect this spring on the number of birds returning to Britain after wintering in the area.

"Our understanding is that this winter's drought has been worse than any other over the last 50 years," Mr Chris Mead, ringing officer of the British Trust for Ornithology, said yesterday.

Among species worst affected are the swallow, white-throat, sedge warbler, redstart and sand martin.

Oxford has asked the trust for

all the information it has in order to aid its own efforts in the area.

During the last severe drought in the late 1960s the bird populations which are expected to be affected again, were depleted by about two thirds. The white-throat population has recovered only slightly.

"Global weather patterns are the problem," Mr Mead said.

"The Sahel drought has happened on and off over a long time. The Sahara has got bigger anyway and climatic changes are causing this increasing spread southwards and affecting the human population as well."

## Teachers warned about cane

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Head teachers in primary and secondary schools were advised yesterday by one of their unions to use the cane less and often to move towards its eventual abolition.

New guidelines on discipline, issued by the National Association of Head Teachers, which has more than 20,000 members, also say that it is highly inadvisable for men to administer corporal punishment to girls.

"Under no circumstances should corporal punishment be administered to girls from the age of puberty upwards, except on the hand", the association says. "In the case of girls below the age of puberty, the punishment administered should be only such as would be used by a reasonable and caring parent."

The advice comes at a time of confusion in schools about the subject. The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that children may not be beaten against their parents' wishes. As a result, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, issued a White Paper saying that parents' wishes must be respected but rejecting a complete ban.

However, the law has not yet been changed so teachers are technically still able to wield the cane. Yesterday, leaders of the association said it would have been much better if Sir Keith had outlawed corporal punishment because the European Court was bound to do so.

"The Secretary of State

## Football ban on mud attack boy

A committee chaired by a Justice of the Peace has banned Anthony Green, aged 11, of Bowland Crescent, Dunstable, from playing football until 1985. He threw mud at a referee and his friend, Paul Quinn, who owned up to calling the official a "walley" was suspended until just before the beginning of next season.

The sentences, imposed by Bedfordshire Football Association, have been described as savage by the boys' league. An appeal is planned to the Football Association.

The incident happened in the changing room after Dunstable Dynamo 11-year-olds lost 5-2 to Lewsey Centre in a Chiltern League game. The club was asked to name the culprits, but no one came forward until the team was threatened with suspension.

## Lawyers ordered to be struck off

The Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal in London yesterday ordered five solicitors to be struck off the Roll of Solicitors.

They were David Edgar Abbott Cooke, of London; Peter Robert Madge, of Cardiff; Giles Adrian Esler, of Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire; Thomas James Stuart Cook, of Christchurch, Dorset; and Christopher Anthony Goddard, of Colchester, Essex.

Mr David Hart, the association's general secretary, said Sir Keith should have set a date for the abolition of corporal punishment and in the meantime have consulted on staffing and resources in order to affect such a decision. "I think he should still do this," Mr Hart said.

The association states that only a small minority of heads still use the cane. Its advice to members contains tips on discipline which it says should always concentrate on encouragement and praise rather than on criticism, and punishment.

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## PARLIAMENT March 29 1984

## Miners must be enabled to go to work

## COAL DISPUTE

The overwhelming majority of British people, except the Labour Party, supported police action against miners pickets, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, said during question time in the Commons.

She added that it was an upside down world in which Opposition MPs blamed the police for enabling law-abiding miners to go to work while endorsing the action of those who attempted to prevent them going to work.

She described as "nonsense" a claim by one Labour MP that her Government's policies were bound to produce unrest throughout the country.

Mr Anthony Favell (Stockport, C) started the exchanges when he said: Did the Prime Minister see on television this morning Mr Eric Heffer, the chairman of the Labour Party, give his support to mass pickets?

Would she assure those miners wanting to work and produce coal at a price which people can afford, that they have the support and the respect of the vast majority of this nation? (Loud Conservative cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher: I wholly agree that those miners who want to go to their

work in order to produce coal which has a great future, because that industry has a great future, must be enabled to go about their law-abiding duties peacefully.

I believe the overwhelming majority of people in this country, except perhaps the Labour Party, are behind the police in the excellent work they are doing.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) It is clear when one looks at the situation in London today, and what is happening in Liverpool and throughout with working people generally, that the draconian policies of this Government are pregnant with violence and an election of a Tory Government of this type is bound to produce unrest throughout the country.

Mrs Thatcher: Nonsense. In respect of the action by London Transport yesterday, most commuters were determined to get to work and did so. (Loud Conservative cheers.)

Mr Michael Hirst (Stratford-on-Avon, C) Has she seen reports of the speech made last week by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, to the National Federation of Seafarers in which he recognised the importance of small business?

Mrs Thatcher: Those who embarked upon the day of disruption are not concerned with the commercial success of our capital. Most people were determined to see it was business as usual.



Flannery: Policies bound to produce unrest.

His apparent conversion would sound less opportunist and more convincing if his side of the House was prepared to recognise and welcome the many measures in this year's Budget for assisting small business.

Mrs Thatcher: Not only is the budget designed to help small business, it is designed to assist all business, particularly in taking off the National Insurance surcharge, which Labour put on in the first place.

Mr Angela Rumbold (Mitcham and Morden, C) The day of disruption we had yesterday in London caused by striking London Transport workers caused not only disruption to the people trying to get to work but great damage to the capital's commercial and industrial life.

Mrs Thatcher: Those who embarked upon the day of disruption are not concerned with the commercial success of our capital. Most people were determined to see it was business as usual.

## Thatcher's EEC ideals yet to be achieved

## EUROPE

There were still very great differences between Britain and her European Community partners to be resolved, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questions in responding to Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP, who asked what was the narrow divide that still separated Britain and what she felt was reasonable to ask from the other EEC members.

Some people (said Dr Owen) would find it easier to understand her ideals for the EEC if every now and then they got the feeling that she was prepared to listen a bit more to some of the other European leaders.

Mrs Thatcher: By even asking that question he indicates he does not understand the kind of negotiations we were having on the Community budget.

They are about two things. First, a continuous system which will endure for a long time. This system has been difficult to negotiate.

Second, they are about the starting figure for that system which would determine what would happen in the future.

There are still great differences between us to be resolved. They are not possible to quantify, as Dr Owen would know if he understood the negotiations we are carrying out.

Mr Bryan Gould (Dagenham, Lab) When the Prime Minister reflects upon the point which has been reached between the UK and the rest of the EEC, will she bear in mind that when these issues and fundamental differences are up for resolution, nothing is commoner than for the issue to be disguised as if it were a quarrel about details and small sums of money, such as a title, local difficulty or £500?

Mrs Thatcher: It is in money terms about a great deal more than that. It is about the whole system and a permanent system and getting a fundamentally equitable system of extending the benefits of financing the Common Market.

I agree with him it is about even more than that. Many of us had far greater ideas for the EEC than have yet been achieved. We shall continue to work at them. We believe other matters, financial and agricultural, have to be settled first.

Mr Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said in a Commons written answer that the UK's net payments to the EEC from January 1, 1973 to December 31, 1983, taking into account refunds received, amounted to £4,777m.

## Two days for Bill on London Transport

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Trade Union Bill, completion of report stage.

Tuesday: Debate on Opposition motion on investment in education. Debate on current negotiations in the EEC.

Wednesday and Thursday: London Regional Transport Bill, progress on reading stage.

Friday: Private Members' Bills: Childs Abduction Bill, remaining stages. Immigration Offices (Amendment) Bill, second reading.

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Video Recordings Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: London Docklands Railway Bill, third reading. Repatriation of Prisoners Bill, report. Straw and Stubbs Burning Prohibition Bill, committee.

Wednesday: Debate on interest rates.

Thursday: Housing and Building Control Bill, third reading. Debate on a fixed date for Easter.

## Difficult decisions facing dairy industry

## AGRICULTURE

Nobody could be happy about the prospects facing the dairy industry but difficult decisions had to be taken, The European Community could not continue overproducing so much milk, Mr Michael Jopling, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said during Commons questions.

He added that the industry would have a difficult time ahead and the Government would be issuing guidance as soon as possible and offering what help it could when the EEC directives on cutting milk production were finalized.

Mr Robert Atkins (South Ribbles, C) asked Mr Jopling to make transitional arrangements for dairy farmers in the proposed cut in milk production. He said the industry faced a cut of 10 per cent in production and incomes and needed special hardship compensation over a transitional period.

Mr Jopling: The agreement on restructuring milk production provides for a transitional period in 1984/85 when the guaranteed quantity free of levy will be set at 96.2m tonnes. In 1985/86 the quantity will fall to 97.2m tonnes.

The cut implicit in the transitional year about to begin is slightly over 6 per cent and not 10 per cent. As for compensation, he should remember that one of the reasons why we are having to take such difficult steps is because the EEC has no more money at the moment.

Mr Thomas Torney (Bradford South, Lab) Will he confirm that as usual in the UK we will monitor the

cuts in production and the super levy? Would he not agree that other member countries are not so eager to do that? Will he ensure that the Community sets up proper arrangements to monitor and administer the super levy in other countries as well as in the UK?

Mr Jopling: I recognize what he says and can say that all the sales of milk are covered by the levy system without any exemption such as off-farm sales.

In discussions on the detailed application, we will ensure that they are implemented throughout the Community. He should consider there is the new weapon of disallowance which the Commission is becoming more and more accustomed to use.

Mr Colin Shepherd (Hereford, C) asked what quota arrangements had been made since the system started next Monday and there was considerable uncertainty in the dairy industry.

Mr Jopling: We are currently having urgent talks with the industry about the implementation of measures. Urgent talks are also taking place in Brussels in the Special Committee on Agriculture. I expect when I return to Brussels tomorrow and Saturday we will be discussing again the measures to implement the scheme.

Sir Paul Hawkins (Norfolk South West, C) The dairy farmers have had three years of warning of the great increase in the mountains of butter and dairy produce and therefore the call by the NFU president for a three-year phasing-in should be considered in relation to this.

Mr Jopling: It is true that the

figure of 97.2m tonnes which is the standard quantity we are working to in the Community is the figure produced in 1981 plus 1 per cent. It is on that basis that the whole thing has been put. Warnings were issued and the guaranteed threshold was introduced to try to create a weapon to deal with overproduction.

Mr Jopling: It would not have been realistic to have a three year transitional period. The NFU asked for that and we negotiated one year. It is necessary for the dairy industry to grapple with the difficulties of over-supply and the massive overproduction and surpluses which exist in the EEC.

I hope, given the one year transitional period, that this will be of help in easing the difficult decisions which have to be taken straightaway.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton North, C) Why are we, who are not self-sufficient in milk products, taking two and half times the cut in dairy products of the French who dairy product surpluses in Europe? Could he not fight a little harder for Britain?

Mr Jopling: In 1982 we reached 131 per cent self-sufficiency in sales non-fat and 100 per cent self-sufficiency in butter fat, taking New Zealand imports into account.

Mr Charles Morrison (Devon, C) Will he take account of the situation facing those farmers in the middle of expansion, having already invested money in new buildings? They are now in considerable difficulties.

Mr Jopling: We are keeping a national reserve in order to deal with hard cases of just that sort.

Mr Gerald Howells (Ceredigion and Pembroke North, L) asked if

the minister would agree to the request of the dairy-producers and members of the NFU that they should be given three years to adjust their farming methods. If he did not agree, many farmers might be made bankrupt.

## MP complains about police questioning

## POLICE

A Labour MP said it had been reported to him that the police had asked miners how they had voted in the last election and how they would have voted if there had been only one Conservative and Communist parties to choose between.

Mr Geoffrey Lofthouse (Pontefract and Castleford, Lab) seeking an emergency debate, said that the National Union of Mineworkers branch secretary at Kellingley Colliery in his constituency had told him last night about the police questioning of his constituents.

A Conservative MP said that he did not believe it and Mr Lofthouse said that that was why he thought it important and necessary that the House should hear about it direct, rather than through the press.

Mr Lofthouse said that his constituents were taken to Mansfield Police Station on Tuesday, photographed and interviewed by plain clothes officers.

He had been told that they had also been asked how they had voted in the election of the President of the NUM (Mr Arthur Scargill). They had been asked several questions about the local NUM branch secretary at Kellingley. They had also been asked a sly question about whether they knew that Mr Scargill drove round in a Jaguar.

I am not a police basher (he said) and I believe that policemen are playing their part in maintaining law and order. They have a job to do and have undoubtedly been doing it and certainly have been doing it under instructions, but it must give the House and country great concern if these allegations are true.

I am not in a position to say that they are. It was in the interest of the House that the truth should come out, for the benefit of the police and of the men questioned. None of them wanted to see a situation of anarchy and it was time there was an investigation.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that Mr Lofthouse had made serious allegations but the matter was not appropriate for discussion under the rule about emergency debates.

Mr Joe Ashton (Bassetlaw, Lab) said later that opportunities to discuss the serious situation in the Kellingley-Northinghamshire coalfield were limited and he asked that next Thursday's debate on the Easter adjournment should be extended to allow for such a discussion.

The Speaker said the debate was limited to three hours.

Mr Albert McQuarrie (Banff and Buchan, C) suggested that Mr Lofthouse should repeat his allegations outside the House or report them to the Chief Constable so that there could be a full investigation.

Mr Lofthouse said that some of the men had repeated the statements on television. He was not personally saying that the questions had been asked but was telling the House the men had had the questions put to them.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said in a Commons written reply that in response to representations from Nottinghamshire County Council, other local authorities and a number of Conservative MPs from Nottinghamshire seats, he proposed to exempt from holdback the additional part of a local authority's expenditure in 1983-84 which arose from the policing of the miners' industrial action.

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## Ratepayers suffering oppression

## SPENDING

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, announced in the Commons that figures produced that day showed that real personal disposable income in 1983 was three per cent above the fourth quarter of 1982. That was higher than at any time under Labour, she said in reply to questions by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Kinnock, in the exchanges, said: Does she stand for town hall not Whitehall and accept the freedom of local government as one of the twin pillars of our constitution?

If she does, why is she capping cutting and centralising local government on a scale that is utterly incompatible with any realistic notion of democracy in the locality, for the locality and by the locality?

Mrs Thatcher: It is the Government's duty to be in charge of the economy and public expenditure of this country and to be in charge of the overall level of taxation levied upon our citizens. It is a traditional role of Parliament to protect the citizen.

There is not the slightest shadow of doubt that there is oppression of ratepayers by the large amount of rates that have been levied because of high public expenditure. That view was endorsed last night by a majority of 123.

Mr Kinnock: As it is the Prime Minister's responsibility to be aware of the overall level of taxation, why is her Government levying more tax than any other Government in British history?

If the Government is responsible for the citizen, why is she introducing and adopting powers that mean that cuts in services inflict deprivation and disadvantage and even danger on the weakest people in our community?

Mrs Thatcher: Local government is spending well above the Government target. If they are in fact choosing to cut on some of the weakest sections, it is up to the local people to say what they choose to spend on.

## Pardon not acquittal court rules

## By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

A person convicted of a crime and later pardoned is not necessarily acquitted of the offence, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

The royal pardon, which is given on the Home Secretary's recommendation, only removes "the pain of punishment", Lord Justice Watkins, with Lord Justice May and Mrs Justice Butler-Stoss, ruled.

Lord Justice Watkins was giving the court's reasons for its ruling earlier this week in the case of Mr Barry Foster, aged 37, a man of low intelligence who was sent to a mental hospital after admitting sex crimes he could not possibly have committed.

The court held that his pardon in 1982, four years after he was sent to Rampton for rape and attempted rape, did not automatically have the effect of quashing the convictions.

In the case of Mr Foster, however, the judges said the convictions should be quashed after hearing that another man had confessed to the offences and had been jailed for life in 1981.

Lord Justice Watkins said that Mr Foster, who comes from Nottingham, was plainly innocent and his convictions obviously unsafe.

The great majority of pardons are for non-custodial offences. Since 1979, there have been 811 pardons for non-custodial offences, mainly summary offences, and on average one a year for custodial with one each in 1981 and 1982.

The commonest reason for a pardon is that the offence was found technically to have been impossible.



Sheffield steel: Captain Sam Salt (left) and Captain David Hart-Dyke at the laying of the keel (in the air) for a new HMS Sheffield to replace the ship lost in the Falklands conflict.

## Cathedral burial for Mary Rose victim

A special burial for the 700 members of the crew of the Mary Rose, the Tudor warship that sank in the Solent 439 years ago, will be held at Portsmouth Cathedral on July 19, the anniversary of the sinking. The bones of one of the victims, recovered from the hull during excavation work, will be interred at the cathedral under a

simple slab of Welsh slate bearing a Tudor rose. Other human remains will be laid to rest at the Royal Naval Hospital at Gosport, Hampshire.

The Provost of Portsmouth, the Very Rev. David Stancliffe, and the Chief Executive of the Mary Rose Trust have spent two years deliberating over the form of the service.

## Free directory inquiries for disabled people

## TELECOM BILL

Should British Telecom decide to levy a charge for use of the directory inquiries service, the Government would take action to see that the blind and disabled who could not use telephone directories, would not be at a financial disadvantage, Lord Glenamaddy, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Services and the Government spokesman said during the third reading of the Telecommunications Bill in the Lords.

He moved an amendment which was agreed that a licence should include a condition requiring that directory information services should be provided without charge for subscribers who were blind or otherwise disabled.

He said that the amendment had been made in response to concern expressed during the report stage of the Bill, that such protection should be made statutory.

Lord Lloyd of Kilgeran (L) said no one had yet produced a satisfactory system for identifying those to whom the dispensation would apply and the Royal National Institute for the Blind was uneasy about the situation.

It was a difficult problem. Had the Government an explanation of the scheme that would not be decided until British Telecom concluded they wished to levy a charge for the directory inquiry service?

Trespass Bill

The Criminal Trespass Bill which makes it an offence in England and Wales, in certain circumstances, to enter a trespasser any building in which a person has his home, or other living accommodation, or any part of such a building, was read the third time in the House of Lords and passed.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private Members' Bills: Juries (Disqualification) Bill, third reading. Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill, remaining stages.

Power of last resort to curb rate burden

reasonable proposition because the power to make an order should be used only sparingly.

The Bill was pointless overkill and that was why a restriction was needed.

We are in the (added) for a touch of the bullyboy tactics. We will get, if not literally at least metaphorically, civil war between St Andrew's House and the regional councils.

We cannot for the life of us see why we need a further layer of oppressive legislation.

Mr Michael Ancram, Under Secretary of State for Scotland said local authority expenditure amounted to a quarter of all public spending.

It made sense for the Government to have this reserve power to be used as a last resort to bring local authority rates and spending into line with the Government's plans.

Report on Ulster

Tory MEPs told to abstain in vote

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

A report that aims to increase EEC aid and involvement in Northern Ireland was passed yesterday by the European Parliament after a passionate debate which highlighted for non-British Euro-MPs the deep differences that exist on each side of the province's border.

The British Conservative group, to its obvious discomfort, was under strict orders from Downing Street to abstain.

Sir Frederick Cathwood, senior member of the group, urged the widest support for it, adding: "It is my personal sorrow that I cannot in fact vote for it."

Lady Elles, the group's spokesman on the subject, said: "We fundamentally object to the principle of having a report at all." It was only thanks to skilful drafting of the report by a Danish Liberal, Mr Niels Haagerup, that the group was not going to vote against it.

According to the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, the report was an "ill informed, biased piece of republican propaganda. On behalf of the people I represent, I repudiate it."

He saw it as intruding into Britain's domestic affairs in its call for the governments of Britain and the Irish Republic to introduce a power-sharing political system. "There will never be a day when the Protestants will want to put their necks under the heel of a Dublin government," he added.

Introducing his report, Mr Haagerup said: "We cannot remain indifferent to a situation where not only economic and social conditions but even more so, political, religious, and

indeed historical factors breed violence... When it comes to violence this Parliament ceased to be neutral and impartial."

Mr TJ Maher, an Irish Republic Independent member, told Mr Paisley that he was "probably the best recruiting agent the IRA has". Mr Paisley lunged back the insult. He had followed too many coffins in Northern Ireland, seen too much brutality, but never, he said, bloodshed to let anyone accuse him of causing violence.

Another Irish Republic Independent member, Mr Neil Blaney, told the Conservative group: "You have tried every type of approach except to make up your minds to... get out and leave it to the Irish to settle the matter between themselves. There will be no bloodshed and we can mind our own business if we are left to do so."

Mr John Hume, the SDLP leader, bemoaned the fact that we have come to the stage where it has been necessary to build a brick wall to separate Catholics from Protestants and that that brick wall is called a "peace line". That wall is an indictment of everyone.

He blamed the British Government, as well as Roman Catholics and Protestants, for giving a unilateral guarantee to one section of the community, "a guarantee that runs right to the heart of the problem."

People could not be united at the point of a gun, he said. Irish patriotism was better served by spilling sweat than spilling blood. Violence was affront to the real meaning of the Irish flag, "the white flag of peace between the orange and the green."

## Plea to Kinnock over rebuff to Euro MP

By Philip Webster  
Political Reporter

Labour MPs sponsored by the Co-operative Party are to seek a meeting with Mr Neil Kinnock to voice grave anxiety over the decision of the party's national executive to refuse to hold an inquiry into the defeat of Mr Brian Kelly the sitting Labour Euro MP for South Yorkshire, at his reselection conference.

The defeat earlier this month of Mr Kelly, who is sponsored by the Co-operative Party and a pro-Marketeer, by Mr Norman West, the candidate proposed by the National Union of Mineworkers and an anti-Marketeer, led to complaints to the Labour Party's national executive of irregularities in the selection process. The miners' union was accused of packing the reselection conference.

But the executive decided on Wednesday by 16 votes to 12 against holding an inquiry. Both Mr Kinnock and Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader, were on the losing side.

Mr David Hughes, the national agent, told the execu-



Mr David Hughes: Confidential paper.

tive in a confidential paper that correspondence had been received from party officers and members in the Euro seat saying that five of the eight constituency parties in it nominated Mr Kelly, which was not reflected in the voting at the selection conference.

He also said that there was "substance" to the challenge to the selection process that a

preselection "caucus" took place to determine how votes should be cast.

It is to call a meeting between its leaders and Labour leaders to consider the 1958 agreement between the two parties, which defines their relationship, including the number of Labour candidates the Co-op is allowed to sponsor.

At present there are seven Labour MPs backed by the Co-op, which has also made £15,000 annual donations to the party in recent years. Any threat to the agreement would be viewed seriously on either side.

In a private letter to the executive, Mr David Wise, secretary of the Co-operative Union, alleged that some constituency delegations to the selection conference were unrepresentative, with trade union delegates claiming a larger proportion of places than their strength on the general management committee entitled them to.

He alleged that tactics were employed to ensure that local party representatives consisted of NUM nominees, that a preselection caucus took place,

prepared to go to London.

Mr Kenderdine told the jury that there was a suggestion in cross-examination of witnesses that those officers involved in the struggle, knowing of Mr Davey's long record of crime and violence, were perhaps "somewhat fearing their own safety or were perhaps moved by some sort of revenge or victimization".

The inquest was adjourned for the jury to consider its verdict.

## Coroner sums up at Davey inquest

The coroner at the inquest into the death of James Davey, whose life-support system was switched off 11 days after he was involved in a struggle at a police station last March, told the jury yesterday that inconsidering a possible verdict of unlawful killing it must weigh the consequences of Mr Davey's excitement and tenderness.

Mr Charles Kenderdine, the Coventry coroner, summing up, said that much depended on the amount of force used, particu-

larly on Mr Davey's neck, to restrain him.

He said that the jury had to decide how, when, and where Mr Davey died and if anyone was responsible. It had to distinguish between accidental death or an unlawful killing.

Mr Davey, aged 40, of Starley Road, Coventry, had been taken to Coventry police station for questioning in connection with inquiries into a gangland murder in London. He said that he had an alibi and was not

prepared to go to London.

Mr Kenderdine told the jury that there was a suggestion in cross-examination of witnesses that those officers involved in the struggle, knowing of Mr Davey's long record of crime and violence, were perhaps "somewhat fearing their own safety or were perhaps moved by some sort of revenge or victimization".

The inquest was adjourned for the jury to consider its verdict.



# "Of course The Economist isn't elitist. Nearly every Company Chairman I know seems to read it"

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BPB Industries plc.  
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Imperial Continental Gas Assoc.

Above, you see just a few of our regular readers. (We'd like to thank them for their public support.) We'd be surprised, however, if all of them loved The Economist at first sight. More often than not, it's an acquired taste. Sometimes, it may need three or four issues before the habit takes. But when it does, just look how far it can take you:

The Economist



# Mitterrand cuts jobs in crisis hit industries but more may have to go

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Braving increasing unrest among the unions, the French Government yesterday approved plans involving substantial cutbacks in the crisis-hit steel, coal and shipbuilding industries. Observers still wonder whether the cuts are big enough, however.

In the steel industry, for example, the Government had announced job losses of 20,000, representing one-fifth of the total workforce, by 1987, whereas it had been estimated that at least 30,000 jobs have to be shed over the next couple of years if the industry was to balance its books by the end of 1985 under EEC directives.

Steel production has already been cut by more than a third over the last decade, and the workforce has been cut by a similar amount, but the industry still made a loss of more than 10 billion francs (£870m) last year.

When the Socialists first came to power, they announced plans to invest 17.5 billion francs in the steel industry, cut 11,000 jobs and increase production to 24 million tons by 1986. In fact, production last year totalled less than 18 million tons and is due to fall even further. Hence the bitter

feelings of betrayal and anger among the workers.

President Mitterrand himself was left to take the unenviable decision at yesterday's Cabinet meeting to abandon the 1.3 billion franc plans for the construction of a universal rolling mill at Grandrange in Lorraine.

The Cabinet had been split down the middle on the issue, with M Laurent Fabius, the Industry Minister, and the Communist ministers firmly backing the project, and M Jacques Delors, the Finance Minister, and M Pierre Mauroy, the prime minister, equally firmly against it.

Feelings are running particularly high in Lorraine, an area of high unemployment heavily dependent on its declining steel and coal industries. On Wednesday, all the unions representing the steel workers in the area called on their members on strike, the first time such joint action had been taken since 1979.

Violence broke out at Longwy-Haut in Lorraine yesterday, as about 200 steel workers ransacked the new tax office in the town after breaking through the iron railings and dumping a ton of coal in the entrance.

After price increases of 1.4 per cent for the first two months of this year, M Delors admitted earlier this week that the Government was now unlikely to reach its target of 5 per cent inflation for the whole of the year. He is now talking of 6 per cent. That will inevitably have serious repercussions for the Government's "guidelines" for a wage rise of no more than 5 per cent this year.

Further trouble with the unions is likely to arise from the recent "admission" by M Jack Ralite, Communist Minister for Employment, that the number of unemployed could rise by 400,000 to a total of 2.6 million by the end of the year if the rise in unemployment over the past two months continued at its present rate.

For coal, the Cabinet confirmed the Government's decision to maintain public aid to the industry at 6.5 billion francs for the next five years, which will mean a substantial cut in real terms and marks a complete reversal of the Government's earlier policy.

In shipbuilding, the Cabinet confirmed the Government's promise to keep open all five yards, but to reduce their production capacity by 30 per cent over the next two years.

## Senghor made first black 'Immortal'

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

The Académie Française, hallowed sanctuary of the 40 guardians of the French language, opened the doors of the country's most exclusive club yesterday to its first black member, M Leopold Senghor, a former President of Senegal, a poet and writer of international renown.

President Mitterrand, in his capacity as "protector" of the Academy, attended the investiture ceremony of the newest "immortal", as the academicians



Leopold Senghor: 'immortal'

are known, along with three government ministers and nearly 400 other dignitaries and guests. He was only the second French President to have attended such a ceremony.

The main task of the Academy, founded in 1635 by Louis XIII at the instigation of Cardinal Richelieu, is to keep under constant review the use of the French language, periodically producing books on French grammar and updating the first authoritative dictionary produced by the Academy in 1694.

The eighth and last edition of the dictionary was published in 1935. Work on the ninth has begun, but is proceeding at a snail's pace: the academicians have not yet beyond the letter "E". The definitions are adopted during the regular Thursday meetings of the "immortals", who include distinguished politicians, scientists, churchmen and artists, as well as literary figures.

The only requirement for an academician is French nationality.



Controversial MP: Mr Stephen Lusher, who caused an uproar in the Australian federal Parliament after saying the dole should be cut.

## Cairo cool over Libyan threat

From Alice Brinton, Cairo

President Mubarak does not appear to be unduly alarmed by the threat of a Libyan march on the Egyptian border.

The president told reporters yesterday in Cairo: "We don't consider what the Libyan leader said was important. We are used to his words, we are not nervous. I don't think there is any further escalation of the situation."

Earlier this month, Colonel Gaddafi called for a Libyan march on the Egyptian border to impose unity between the two countries. The march was to begin on Wednesday.

Nevertheless, the semi-official Cairo newspaper *Al-Ahram* yesterday served warning that Egypt would regard any Libyan march towards the Egyptian borders as a "flagrant and direct aggression" and "would deal with it accordingly".

In a front-page article, Mr

Ibrahim Naifeh, the paper's editor, said: "A decision by one country to cross into the territory of another by force is plain aggression by all international standards. He added: "Egypt will repel such aggression."

On Wednesday Colonel Gaddafi threatened to "upset the balance" in north-east Africa unless, as he put it, the United States "withdrew" from Egypt and Sudan. He attacked both countries for calling in US Awaacs surveillance aircraft.

Although President Mubarak clearly wishes to play down the Libyan threat, he did admit that the Egyptian Army was on full alert as his ally, Sudan, continued to blame Libya for the bombing raid on Omdurman, the outskirts of Khartoum, on March 16.

Egypt will certainly not strike the first blow in this battle of wills with Libya unless there is a direct attack by the Libyans. In

the meantime, Egypt intends to keep a keen watch on its borders and continue to strengthen its security measures.

Meanwhile, Egypt's banished Coptic Pope, Shenouda III, has predicted that he will soon be rehabilitated. "I am sure there will be an end to this incarceration soon", he said.

The late President Sadat withdrew state recognition from Pope Shenouda and banished him to a desert monastery in September, 1981, for what he called the Pope's role in attempts to stir up sectarian trouble between Muslims and Copts.

Last April, an administrative court in Cairo confirmed Sadat's decree stripping the Pope of his temporal powers to the dismay of Egypt's Copts, who do not feel that a head of state should have the power to dismiss a patriarch elected by "the will of God."



Peace Watch: A Lebanese policeman talking to French soldiers at Beirut's 'Green line'.

## French troops hand over to truce force

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Lebanese police and white-helmeted French truce observers began taking over posts along the "Green Line" dividing east and west Beirut yesterday after a new committee began work on bringing about a true ceasefire in the Lebanese capital.

A round of handshaking marked the take-over of positions from departing French soldiers who are the remnants of the multinational force that once included British, Italian and American contingents.

But amid the ceremony at Beirut's battered race track, occasional bursts of gunfire could be heard, making clear that at least some of the Muslim and Christian militiamen who have been fighting off-and-on for nine years were not yet ready for a truce.

But the scattered sniping was little compared to the heavy, random artillery fire on Wednesday that left more than 20 people dead before the "higher security-political committee" held its first meeting under the

leadership of President Amin Gemayel.

The committee - made up of representatives of the Army and various Christian, Druze and Shia militias - met for four hours yesterday. It issued a statement saying it had taken "important steps" that would soon produce results.

The force taking over from the departing French troops is made up of 40 retired French officers, Lebanese police, retired Lebanese Army and police officers, and army reservists.

The 300 Lebanese police and the French observers look over some positions, but many French soldiers remained in the area between the Christian and Muslim militias. The French force is expected to complete its withdrawal tomorrow.

The day of relative calm in Beirut came amid fresh trouble in southern Lebanon. Four Israeli soldiers were wounded in Rihane, a village near Nabatieh, when one of them stepped on a landmine.

## Jerusalem embassy ruled out by Reagan

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan has said that it would be "most unwise" for the United States to move its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and has hinted that he would veto legislation to require such a step.

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and other senior officials have already voiced opposition to a move in Congress to pass a Bill calling for the transfer of the American embassy to Jerusalem. But the President's remarks, in an interview with *The New York Times* published yesterday, were the first time he has addressed the issue publicly.

Asked whether he would veto the Bill, he said: "I am saying I won't have to. But like the several previous Presidents before me, I think that this is a most unwise thing. It should never have been introduced in our Congress."

He observed that the "place of Jerusalem, the West Bank (of the Jordan River), things of this kind" must be negotiated between Israel and the Arabs. "The US has no right to put itself in a position of trying to force one way or the other on these areas for negotiation."

Both Mr Walter Mondale and Senator Gary Hart, the Democratic presidential nomination contenders, favour moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem, which Israel has proclaimed its eternal capital. Arab and other Muslim countries have strongly opposed any such move.

Mr Shultz has said publicly it would be very damaging to US interests. "It involves the old issue of Jerusalem. It involves the deeply religious sites and connotations of that city. When you touch that, you touch a raw nerve running across the Muslim world."

The Bill has more than 30 sponsors in the Senate and more than 200 in the House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, the Senate foreign relations committee on Wednesday voted to guarantee Israel a minimum level of economic aid for the next several years, a commitment regarded as highly unusual in American foreign aid funding.

The committee's action in providing enough economic support each year to cover the Israeli repayment of principal and interest on previous US loans reflected the importance of the Jewish vote in a Presidential election year and growing concern over Israel's financial problems.

The committee tentatively agreed to increase economic aid to Israel to \$1.2 billion (£827m) in 1985, \$350m more than President Reagan's request. Israel owes the United States about \$1.1 billion this year.

## Challenges to Israel's leaders

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Political speculation in Israel yesterday centred on whether the standard bearers of Likud and Labour in the July 23 national elections will be the charismatic Mr Yitzhak Shamir and Mr Shimon Peres or whether the parties will prefer more exciting leaders.

Mr Shamir, the Prime Minister, has already been challenged for the Likud nomination by Ariel Sharon, who nurses a grudge because Mr Shamir has refused him a government portfolio after he was ousted as Minister of Defence last year.

Mr Shamir's supporters seemed little concerned by the challenge of the one-time war hero, who was denounced by a commission of inquiry for indirect responsibility for the Phalangist massacre of Palestinians in Beirut when he was Defence Minister, but Mr Sharon has been, patiently, restless without executive responsibilities and he indicated he might be content with assurances of a Cabinet portfolio if Likud forms a government again.

A more serious challenger

would be Mr David Levy, who ran against Mr Shamir for the Likud nomination last year, an immigrant from Morocco, he is effective on the hustings among Jews from Middle East countries, who make up a large element of Likud voters.

He is considered a bigger electoral asset than Mr Shamir, but his handicap has been inexperience in foreign affairs. After his defeat for the nomination last year, he wanted the foreign affairs portfolio in the Cabinet and appeared chagrined that Mr Shamir kept it for himself.

Mr Levy has not yet announced his candidature this time but kept all his options open.

In the Labour Party, the situation may clarify today when Mr Yitzhak Navon, the former President, informs Mr Peres of his plans. Public opinion polls have indicated that Mr Navon, who had been an extraordinarily popular president, can muster the largest number of voters for Labour, but Mr Peres has pointed out that the polls recently showed

Labour will win, no matter who is the standard-bearer.

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of the last Labour Government and a bitter rival of Mr Peres for many years, has kept his plans to himself. An aid said he conferred with Mr Navon on Wednesday and was awaiting his decision today before deciding whether to run.

The July 23 election date was set on Wednesday by Mr Shamir and Mr Peres, and requires confirmation in a Knesset legislative Act. The House ended its winter session on Wednesday night and will be convened for an extraordinary session next week for a first reading of three private members' Bills for the dissolution of Parliament, which passed their preliminary reading last Thursday.

The following week another extraordinary meeting will be held for a final reading. Some deputies said the legislature may delay the polling 24 hours because a Tuesday would be more convenient than a Monday.

## US out to sink \$100m pirates

From David Watts, Singapore

The pirates of Singapore cost the British and American recording industries about \$100m (£70m) a year in lost sales, and the situation has become so serious that America may seek to curb the republic's trading privileges if there is no action to scuttle the pirates.

Firms, which want to bring high-technology investment to the island, are also worried that new computer ideas may be pilfered. Later this year, a delegation from the US Department of Commerce, the State Department and the Library of Congress will visit Singapore to encourage the Government to clean up the industry.

If President Reagan's visit had gone ahead last year, he would have conveyed the same message. Extension of the general system of preferences for Singapore at the end of this year could be in jeopardy.

Repeated requests from foreign governments, including a visit last year by the Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, have produced little progress. A committee to

review the republic's copyright laws have been sitting for months without success.

"The pirates seem to have some powerful friends," one investigator said. They also appear to be determined. When an official of the British company, EMI, tried to look into their activities, he was warned off with death threats.

EMI may have to close its record-pressing plant in the republic, with the loss of 100 jobs. Profits for the legitimate makers of records and tapes are a thing of the past and the best they can hope for is to break even.

One reason for the lack of action appears to be a disagreement within the Government. The legal branch wants to improve Singapore's image, as does the Ministry of Culture, but the Minister, himself, Mr S. Dhanabalan, has said there is no local talent in Singapore worth protecting.

Other government figures think record prices are too high and the British and American companies should reduce them.

But the pirates are hard to beat, with an estimated 1,000 illegitimate outlets for cassette tapes in the republic and only one legitimate outlet, run by EMI.

Big business is not in the home market, however. In 1982, Singapore exported nearly 36 million pre-recorded cassettes, not to mention pirate blanks of both audio and video cassettes.

The pirates' story begins in London or Los Angeles when an employee of one of the international airlines picks up a copy of a new album. Within 24 hours, that LP is back in Singapore, and one of the top three pirates will be running off cassette copies at the rate of 1,500 an hour.

The trouble is their quality is excellent, a record company executive admits. "They no longer just make a straight copy of the album. Now, they make their own master tape from which they make the copies and, very often the quality is so good you can't tell it from the original."

## Greek ship struck in Gulf

Athens (Reuters) - An Iraqi missile struck the engine room of the Greek cargo ship *Lapetos* at the head of the Gulf, causing fire on board, the Greek Merchant Marine Ministry said. The 16 crew, who were unhurt, abandoned the 16,230-ton ship and were picked up by a tug.

Iraq said earlier that its Navy and Air Force had destroyed four big "enemy naval targets" in the area.

## Jet crash pilots to be charged

Geneva (Reuters) - The Geneva prosecutor has brought manslaughter and bodily harm charges against two pilots of a Swiss charter jet which crashed into the sea near Madeira in 1977 with the loss of 36 lives. The pilots are accused of breaking flight regulations, including one calling for night landings to be made only by pilots acquainted with Madeira airport.

## Second plane hijacked

Miami (Reuters) - A Delta Airlines Boeing 727 with 39 passengers and seven crew arrived back in the United States after a lone hijacker diverted the plane to Cuba. The plane, which was en route to Dallas from New Orleans, was the second United States aircraft in 36 hours, forced to fly to Cuba.

## Abattoir visit

Lobatse, Botswana (Reuters) - The Prince of Wales toured Africa's biggest slaughterhouse here on the fourth day of a five-day visit to Botswana, where he is inspecting projects of the Commonwealth Development Corporation, of which he is a director.

## Best-seller Deng

Peking (Reuters) - Chinese bookshops last year sold 34 million copies of the selected works of Mr Deng Xiaoping, the country's effective ruler, making him China's best-selling author.

## Troops seized

Bangkok (Reuters) - Thailand said it had captured 40 Vietnamese troops inside its border yesterday - the greatest number captured by Thailand in border clashes since Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1979.

## Tunis high-tech

Rome - The first African conference on computer communications, Africom, is to be held in Tunis from May 21 to 23.

## Correction

Princess Alia is the daughter of King Hussein of Jordan, not his sister, as stated on Wednesday in a photograph caption supplied by an agency.



Fashion craze: Peking shoppers mob the counter at a sale of Western suits.

## Duarte ahead in snail's pace count

San Salvador (AP) - The Christian Democratic presidential candidate, Senator Napoleon Duarte, increased his lead over the representative of the extreme right, Major D'Aubuisson, as the count from Sunday's presidential election in El Salvador continued at a snail's pace.

With 25 per cent of the vote tallied, Senator Duarte led with 119,612 votes, or 40 per cent, to Major D'Aubuisson's 94,737, or 31.2 per cent. The Christian Democrat was expected to increase his lead when votes are counted from the larger cities, where Senator Duarte is strongest.

Because of confusion and bickering at the Central Electoral Council, which supervised the polling, the final results are not expected to be made public before the weekend.

But Christian Democrat Party supporters admitted that Senator Duarte is not going to obtain the absolute majority required by law, and will have to face Major D'Aubuisson in a run-off, probably on May 6.

Senator Duarte, aged 58, appeared strongest among the middle class and the peasants, to whom he gave land and credits in a series of land, banking and social reforms that he pushed through while President.

Major D'Aubuisson, aged 40, and his Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) are backed by the old wealthy families, in alliance with the military.

Dr Francisco José Guerrero, whose conservative National Conciliation Party (PCN) ruled El Salvador through fraudulent elections until it was overthrown by a military coup in October, 1979, followed Senator Duarte and Major D'Aubuisson with 69,104 votes, or 22.8 per cent.

West German MPs who observed the Salvadoran elections gave the poll their qualified blessing yesterday (Reuters reports).

## Daughter of Marcos to be election candidate

From Keith Dalton, Manila

The 28-year-old daughter of President Marcos yesterday announced her candidacy in a key Philippines parliamentary election in May, one day after her mother tearfully announced she was not running.

Mrs Imelda Marcos-Manotoc will seek election in her father's home province of Ilocos Norte where her younger brother, Mr Ferdinand Marcos, is Governor. Her election is virtually assured, observers say.

The President's wife told reporters that it was her personal decision not to seek reelection to the 200-member National Assembly, but her daughter's candidacy was "the people's will".

"If the people want her, who am I to say no. Why will I deny them?" This was proof that the people had confidence in the Marcos family, she said, adding that it resolved a bitter squabble that it resolved a bitter squabble over the party nomination in Ilocos Norte between the President's uncle and nephew.

President Marcos had earlier said he was against "political dynasties... unless there is no alternative". His daughter, however, became an exception to the rule. Her candidacy seemed inevitable last weekend when President Marcos, bewailing the lack of political talent in his home province, described his daughter as "a very obstinate lady" because of her initial refusal to accept the party's nomination.

Opposition leaders believe the last-minute candidacy of Mrs Imelda Marcos-Manotoc, as part of a "grand plan" by the President and his wife to groom their children for future political leadership.

Mrs Imelda Marcos's decision not to seek a second six-year parliamentary term is in line with her pledge last September, shortly after the murder of Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader, to give up politics and become the "chief lobbyist" of the private business sector.

## Policeman takes on job as Mafia town mayor

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Inspector Giacomo Grillo, a serving Italian police officer, has become Mayor of Elcamo in Sicily, a town of 60,000 frequently described as a Mafia centre. A special decree was passed to enable him to do so.

His immediate predecessor as Mayor Resigned at the end of February and left public life altogether. He left wing has suggested he had been threatened by the Mafia.

Inspector Grillo is cautious in talking about this. He points out that two inquiries are in progress into his predecessor's departure, by the regional authorities and the other by the office of the Special High Commissioner combating the Mafia.

The former Mayor made no effort to tell the police about any threats, although the police station is only 200 yards from the town hall.

What made Inspector Grillo ask for special leave to become the first policeman in Italy to be Mayor? "Because" he says

"I love my town". He was born in Elcamo.

Inspector Grillo has kept the Town Planning Department under his personal control, a sensitive post because of alleged Mafia interest in property speculation. But the inspector avoids dramatics. It is up to the mayor, he says, to fill these posts as he thinks fit. He has for the moment decided not to delegate responsibility for town planning to anyone else.

He was elected to the Council as an independent in the Christian Democrat lists. If he sees out his full mandate he will be mayor until June 1985.

Inspector Antonio Cuomo, the mayor of Sorrento who was arrested on charges of corruption, is being held in the Naples prison of Poggioreale. The mayor, a Christian Democrat, was allegedly involved in the distribution of jobs to favour his party immediately before the last elections.





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A young man who smokes twenty a day is 40 times more likely to die of smoking than in a road accident.\*

So if you want another reason to give up, we've got one. Much as your children would like a new bike, they'd love an old Dad even more.



\*Health or Smoking, Royal College of Physicians 1983. In our advertisement on March 14th, we inadvertently stated that tobacco kills 40 times as many people as road accidents; we should have said smokers not people. The fact is, road accidents in the U.K. kill about 6,000 people a year, while tobacco kills about 100,000.



# Attack on coastal town shows Unita's power to sow wide disruption

From Michael Horroby, Johannesburg

The attack by the Angolan rebel movement, Unita, last Sunday on the coastal town of Sumbe (formerly Novo Redondo) only 160 miles south-east of Luanda, the Angolan capital, demonstrated dramatically the ability of the guerrillas to move with impunity over large areas of the country.

Less than a month ago Unita - the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola - raided the north-eastern diamond-mining centre of Kafundo and captured more than 70 foreigners working there, including 16 British technicians. Diamonds are Angola's second biggest foreign exchange earner.

Details of the fighting at Sumbe are still sketchy. A 5,000-strong Unita force claims to have seized the town, a provincial capital, and killed 81 Russians, Bulgarians and Cubans and more than 500 Angolan government troops. The Angolans have confirmed the attack, but say that only eight "pacific citizens" were killed and that the rebels were immediately routed.

Whatever the truth, the mere fact that Dr Jonas Savimbi's guerrillas are operating over such a widespread area is in itself highly significant, and confirms that Unita is now the least controlled and most unpredictable element in the current attempts to end the related Angolan and Namibian (South-West African) conflicts.

Under the agreement reached in Lusaka on February 16, South Africa is withdrawing its troops from those parts of Angola's South-western province which have been occupying for the last three years or more. As they pull out,

the vacated areas are being returned to Angolan control.

The quid pro quo is that Angola has undertaken to prevent the southward infiltration of Swapo (South West Africa People's Organization) guerrillas from their Angolan bases into Namibia, which is still occupied by Pretoria 18 years after its presence there was declared illegal by the United Nations.

Mixed units of the Angolan-South African military monitoring commission set up at Lusaka have, in fact, clashed at least three times this month with Swapo guerrillas who were either unaware of the terms of the accord or were under orders to try to get down into Namibia before the infiltration routes were completely closed.

The Lusaka accord imposes no reciprocal obligation on South Africa to restrain Unita, even though it is generally acknowledged that Pretoria has been Dr Savimbi's main source of arms and ammunition over most of the past decade. There may be some tacit understanding on this point, but it is questionable whether Pretoria could control Unita even if it wanted to.

Dr Savimbi cut his teeth as a guerrilla leader on the Portuguese colonial armed forces, and was around long before the South Africans came on the scene. He leads an authentic black nationalist movement with a base of popular support in the Ovimbundu tribe, which accounts for nearly 40 per cent of the Angolan population.

Pretoria has poured such huge quantities of supplies across the border over the past year or so that even if the South

African lifeline was totally cut off Dr Savimbi would face no serious difficulties for the foreseeable future. In any case, he also gets weapons from Morocco and Saudi Arabia, funnelled into northern and eastern Angola via Zaire.

President Mobutu of Zaire, despite formally correct relations with Luanda, gives full backing to Dr Savimbi. The Unita leader also enjoys warm relations with President Kaunda of Zambia, who has emerged as an important behind-the-scenes mediator in the peace diplomacy in southern Africa.

On the face of it, then, Luanda seems to have allowed itself, under economic pressure, to be manoeuvred into a very one-sided agreement. The Angolans may believe, however, that, freed of South African pressure on their southern border, they can destroy Unita militarily. Recent visitors to Angola report huge shipments of Soviet arms arriving daily.

If that is so, a long period of inconclusive fighting is in prospect. It also means that the estimated 25,000 Cuban troops in Angola will not be sent home soon, thereby continuing to furnish Pretoria with a pretext for refusing to leave Namibia. Unita can somehow be accommodated peacefully no lasting settlement is likely.

Almost certainly the United States is the only country with the diplomatic and economic leverage to bring Luanda and Unita to the negotiating table. In the long run, the very stalemate between Government and rebels with neither side able to inflict a decisive defeat on the other, could be the best hope of compromise.



Royal welcome: King Olaf of Norway, with King Juan Carlos at his side, taking the salute at Madrid airport on his arrival for a three-day visit to Spain.

## US in middle of Aegean row

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Relations between the United States and the Government of Greece come under review today when Mr Caspar Weinberger, the American Defence Secretary, arrives in Athens for extensive talks with Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, who doubles as Minister of Defence.

The American bases in Greece and a \$2.2 billion plan to modernize the Greek air force are bound to be discussed. But what is likely to cause most of the Greek-American antagonism is the American support for the Greek Government's policy of maintaining its military presence in the Aegean islands.

The American Government is known to be concerned because Greek-Turkish differences over Aegean air space are holding up the creation of a new Nato air command at Larnaca in central Greece, while the dispute over the military status of the Greek island of Lemnos had prompted Greece to boycott all Nato exercises in the Aegean for over a year.

The Socialist Government in Athens makes its dislike for the Reagan Administration quite plain, but it insists that under the recent agreement on US-Greek bases, the American Government assumed the obligation to maintain the balance

of power between Greece and Turkey by providing military aid to them at a fixed ratio of seven to Greece for every 10 given to Turkey.

Whenever the US Government tries to question this claim, the powerful Greek lobby in Washington, especially influential in a US election year, is unleashed to obtain a reversal of the Administration's recommendations.

In this sense, the climate of today's talks in Athens is enlivened by the news from Washington that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has opted in favour of the seven to 10 ratio. Greece is being recommended for \$500m of military assistance to Turkey's \$716m for the year 1984-85.

What is more, the committee made the release of \$216m of grant aid to Turkey conditional on the return of Marousi (new town of Athens) by the Turkish-Cypriots for the prompt repatriation of the city's 40,000 Greek-Cypriot refugees.

This caveat is unlikely to survive the subsequent stages of ratification of the Foreign Aid Bill, but it has already gratified the Greek Government and could make Mr Weinberger's visit to Turkey next week much less comfortable.

The pro-Moscow Greek Communist Party, clearly dis-

turbed by the possibility that Greece's increasing reliance on the US could dissipate the pronounced pro-Soviet bias in Greek foreign policy, has already called for protest rallies throughout Greece against the "Pentagon's war-hawk".

Demonstrators are due to march to the American embassy in Athens tonight as the US Defence Secretary and the Greek Prime Minister will be meeting.

● THE HAGUE: Mr Weinberger appealed to The Netherlands yesterday to accept 48 cruise nuclear missiles, saying their deployment was vital to western defence.

But at the start of a delicate mission to persuade the Dutch to maintain Nato solidarity over cruise, Mr Weinberger carefully avoided putting undue pressure on his hosts.

At a press conference after a first meeting with the Dutch Defence Minister Mr Job de Reijer, Mr Weinberger said the alliance's plans for deployment in five countries had been carefully made to provide balance for an enormous number of Soviet SS-20 missiles. The Dutch are the last of the allies to decide on siting.

"It is vital, I think, that the plan be carried out. It does not give equality but is planned as a deterrent," he said.

## Swiss spray artist fails to escape jail term

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

A controversial graffiti artist, known as the Sprayer of Zurich, who has been widely acclaimed for his art but sentenced in his home town to nine months' imprisonment for defacing public property, is to be extradited to Switzerland.

The West German constitutional court in Karlsruhe has turned down an application by Herr Harald Naegeli for asylum, saying the punishment he now faces in Switzerland, which includes a fine of 101,534 Swiss francs (£32,000) was not unreasonable. Damage to property could not be justified by the freedom of art. Both in Germany and Switzerland it ought to be possible to produce art without defacing buildings.

Herr Naegeli, who covered more than 100 buildings in Zurich with weird, spindly figures sprayed from aerosol cans in night-time protests against urban sterility, was arrested on a Swiss warrant last August in Germany, and has since been living on bail in Düsseldorf. His graffiti were acclaimed by Swiss artists, and became a tourist attraction, and an art school in Wiesbaden tried to offer him cultural sanctuary.

## Rebels kill two more in Sri Lanka

From Our Correspondent, Colombo

Dissidents in Sri Lanka's Northern Province shot and killed two government employees yesterday soon after security forces had arrested 40 suspects in a pre-dawn swoop.

The killings brought the total number of deaths at the hands of the rebels to eight within the last 10 days. In three earlier incidents two Air Force personnel and four police officers were killed.

The Government reacted angrily yesterday to a statement in Delhi by an External Affairs Ministry spokesman, who expressed regret over the incident on Wednesday in which Air Force personnel in the north killed 10 people when they opened fire after an alleged attack on them. The Government did not dispute the Indian figure of 10.

An official of the Foreign Ministry in Colombo said yesterday the Indian Government had not expressed any regrets when six Sri Lankan servicemen off duty and in civilian clothes had been killed by dissidents. He called the Indian statement "one-sided".

● ISLAMABAD: President Zia ul-Haq said yesterday he was prepared to step down if Pakistanis rejected, in a referendum, his conception of a party-free Islamic democracy.

● DHAKA: The Bangladesh military ruler General Hossain Mohammad Ershad, has rejected opposition party demands that he hand over power to a caretaker government before parliamentary elections due later this year (Reuters reports).

## Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

Washington

The strong showing of the Reverend Jesse Jackson may prove in the long run to be the most significant feature of this year's democratic primaries.

He has never stood the slightest chance of winning the nomination. The American electorate is not ready for a black president and the democratic party knows that well enough. But Mr Jackson has won more support in these primaries than most people had expected.

This week he won more votes than either Mr Walter Mondale or Senator Gary Hart in the traditionally conservative state of Virginia. He has run strongly elsewhere in the South and the 21 per cent of the vote that he gained in Illinois last week came as a surprise to most politicians in that state.

What we are seeing is the political emergence of the black community. Ethnic voting is part of the American political tradition. By voting as a block the Irish, the Italians, the Jews and other immigrant communities have each in their turn won a measure of political power and influence and thereby secured a better place for themselves in American life.

It is understandable that the blacks should flock to do the same but up to now a lower proportion of them than other communities have voted or even registered to vote.

## Treated as an equal

Mr Jackson has changed this by being the first black to run for president and by showing that he can hold his own in campaigning with the other candidates. There he is in the joint debates, one of only three candidates now left in the race, treated as an equal and fully justifying that position by his performance.

I am not suggesting that Mr Jackson would be an acceptable President if only he could be elected. He would not be. Neither his knowledge and experience, nor the degree of personal trust he can inspire, would fit him for the Presidency.

It would also be an exaggeration to claim that Mr Jackson alone had been responsible for the greater political activity of blacks this year.

But his candidacy has undoubtedly been a source of pride and stimulus for the black community. It is unlikely that they will slip back into a political torpor when this campaign is over.

His influence Mr Jackson will be able to exercise on their behalf this year will depend initially on the outcome of the remaining primaries. If they produce a deadlock between Mr Mondale and Senator Hart, then Mr Jackson could be the power broker at the San Francisco convention.

Already Senator Hart and his staff have been sending friendly signals in Mr Jackson's direction. When he is clearing long before getting to San Francisco who the Democratic nominee will be, he will still need Mr Jackson's help in November to get black voters to the polls.

## Zanzibar detainee is named

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Zanzibar's new president, Mr Ali Hassan Mwinyi, says only one person - the former Zanzibar Attorney-General, Mr Wolfgang Dourado - is under detention following the constitutional crisis which resulted in the resignation of the former President, Mr Aboud Jumbe, in January.

In a radio interview in Zanzibar, Mr Mwinyi said "a couple" of others were restricted to their homes, but he forecast that they would soon be free of all restrictions.

Mr Dourado had called for changes in the constitution which has linked Zanzibar with mainland Tanzania since the Sultan of Zanzibar was overthrown in 1964. But Mr Mwinyi denied that there was any popular support for his views.

Elected as interim president following Mr Jumbe's resignation, Mr Mwinyi is the only candidate in a presidential election now fixed for April 19. Under the constitution, he must receive majority of the votes if he is to remain in office, but this is a foregone conclusion.

He said new constitutional provisions are now being worked out to give a stronger voice to Zanzibaris in their own affairs.

● DAR ES SALAAM: President Julius Nyerere has again hinted that he may not stand for re-election at the presidential election due next year (Reuters reports).

President Nyerere, who has led the country since independence from Britain in 1961, was quoted by the Government's Daily News today as saying the ruling party should find an alternative candidate.

Political analysts believe he might become an elder statesman figure by leading the ruling Revolutionary Party.

## Referee wins on points in Hart - Mondale battle

### Gloves off as contenders go for the kill

From Nicholas Ashford, New York

The gloves finally came off in New York. The contest between Mr Walter Mondale and Senator Gary Hart for the Democratic presidential nomination, which until now has been described in house race terms, has turned into a bare-knuckle contest, with the two combatants slugging at each other in an attempt to deliver a knock-out blow to the solar plexus, the chin or even below the belt.

As the two traded blows in a pre-primary debate at Columbia University, the third candidate in the contest, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, took on the role of referee, sometimes siding with one, sometimes the other, and occasionally warning both to hold off and fight clean.

This "rat-a-tat", he told them at one stage, would dominate the news and obscure attention from the real issues at stake - the future direction of the Democratic Party and how to get President Reagan out of the White House.

Wednesday's night's clash provided a revealing glimpse of the growing animosity between Mr Mondale and Mr Hart, both of whom have in the past claimed the other as a friend. Almost the entire hour-long debate was taken up by the two of them criticizing the other's leadership ability, often sarcastically.

At one point, Mr Mondale accused Mr Hart of running misleading television advertisements and demanded: "You pull those ads tonight."

"Why do you run those ads that suggest I'm out trying to kill kids?" Mr Mondale angrily asked the Colorado senator. "All my life I've fought for peace. All my life I've been opposed to any kind of use of American force that isn't totally justified and sensible in the circumstances."



Getting down to it: Mr Mondale courting the youth vote at a New York nursery school.

The hard commercial he was referring to warns that Mr Mondale's policies could lead to thousands of American casualties in a future Central American conflict.

Mr Hart angrily countered with a question of his own. "I would answer by asking you a question. Why have you questioned my commitment to arms control and civil rights when you know that I have just as much commitment to both of those as you have?"

Much of the debate was taken up by a discussion - a brawl might be a more accurate description - on foreign policy issues, particularly the use of American combat troops overseas.

Mr Hart said he would reaffirm America's commitment to Western Europe.

Japan, Korea, Australia and other Pacific countries.

But he said it was equally important to know where we would not fight. Unlike Mr Mondale, he said, "Some of us have learnt the lesson of Vietnam... and that is why I disagree with the continued presence of American forces in central America."

Mr Mondale responded: "There is a lesson to be learnt from Vietnam. I was late in opposing that war and I've admitted it. It was the worst mistake of my life... the problem with what you are saying is that you learnt the wrong lesson. There is a proper role for American power in the world."

Mr Mondale accused his rival of "pulling the plug" on Central America and of leaving

America's allies to fend for themselves if the Persian Gulf explodes.

The two men joined forces briefly to criticize Mr Reagan's arms control record, but then fell quickly to disputing their claims to seniority and consistency in support of disarmament and a nuclear weapons freeze.

They were also in agreement in their support for Israel.

In the closing comments Mr Mondale, citing his record on arms control, urged New Yorkers next Tuesday to "vote as if your life depended on it... because it might." Mr Hart, if there was a winner it was probably the referee, Mr Jackson. As for the two main contestants, it is clear they will have to trade a lot more punches before either of them is out for the count.

## Haig's memoirs fall on deaf ears in Washington

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The first instalment of Mr Alexander Haig's memoirs on his traumatic 17 months as Secretary of State landed quietly, almost imperceptibly, on the ever-growing pile of Washington political memoirs. It is quite remarkable how little dust he has disturbed with such a weight of malice.

Yet here is a widely disliked man telling stories about President Reagan, Mr Caspar Weinberger, Mr Edwin Neese and others with whom he played the game of power. Nobody is seriously fighting back. It is as though Washington were determined not to hear Mr Haig.

Mr Reagan is attacked in the most subtle way for his seeming detachment from decision-making, but only after a breathless eulogy. "Reagan's affability, his habit of speaking plainly without metaphor or jargon, and above all the impression he gave of liking the person he is talking to, create a good atmosphere," Mr Haig writes. "Simply put, Ronald Reagan is a nice guy."

The Associated Press strangled to produce ten photographs the other day on how Mr Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, "mildly ridiculed" the assertion in the memoirs that he was confused after the attempted assassination of President Reagan in 1981. Somebody, anyway, has been slightly stung.

In a meeting in the situation room of the White House after the shooting Mr Weinberger "shocked" Mr Haig by announcing that he had raised the alert status of US forces. Mr Haig said that Mr Weinberger did not seem to know what he was doing at the time and risked raising tensions with the Soviet Union.



General Haig: A widely disliked man

"We seem to have attended different meetings, although we were in the room at the same time," Mr Weinberger said.

Mr Haig acknowledges in the book, *Caveat: realism, Reagan and Foreign Policy*, that he should not have declared "I am in control here" while Vice-President George Bush was flying back to Washington from Texas, and while Mr Reagan was on the operating table.

"Certainly I was guilty of a poor choice of words," he said. "Possibly I should have washed my face or taken a half-dozen deep breaths before going on camera."

Mr Haig describes the poignant final hours of the Presidency of Mr Richard Nixon for whom he served as Chief of Staff. "We went together to the Lincoln sitting room, his favourite place. The only light came from a log fire on the hearth."

"He began to talk... I left him there sitting alone in the dark. When I returned shortly after dawn Nixon was still in the same chair. The gray light of morning filled the room. There was the smell of a fire that had died. On a table lay a stack of books, the memoirs of Presidents."

## Hope of real advantages

At that stage both the Democratic nominee and Mr Jackson may have difficulty. The candidate will need Mr Jackson's help and Mr Jackson will need to show that he can deliver the votes if he is to have the maximum influence in the Democratic Party in the future - always assuming that he does not decide to run as a third candidate.

To get the black vote out Mr Jackson will need to offer the hope of real advantages for the black community. But his help will be counter-productive if these advantages alienate other voters.

He cannot become the Vice-Presidential candidate because that would frighten off the white electorate. He probably would not want the offer of a Cabinet post. And, in any case, whoever is the Presidential candidate must be careful about doing any obvious deals.

What the black voters would most appreciate would be Government help to provide jobs and relieve poverty - though here again it would be politically damaging for the Democrats to discriminate in favour of blacks.

Yet Mr Jackson has already seized the political leadership of black America. Given luck and skill, it is just possible that he might determine the political leadership of the country as a whole by bringing on many more blacks to vote against Mr Reagan. He can never be the king, but he might be the kingmaker.



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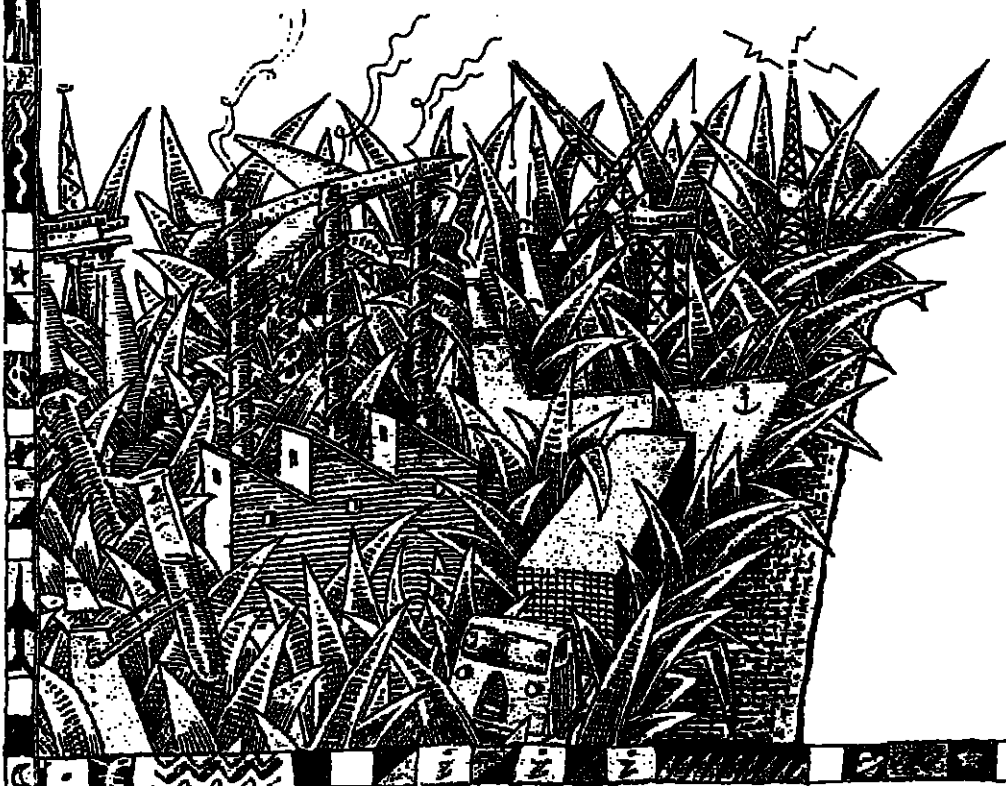


panies' problems is unique; and our Ventures Division who specialise in high-technology businesses.

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## SPECTRUM

## Back to firm foundations

When the dust settled after Ronan Point tower block fell down nearly 20 years ago, more than bricks and mortar lay in the rubble. The collapse also spelt the end of the dreams of modern architecture. Roderick Gradidge explains how architects are once more turning to tried and traditional designs

A surprising thing is happening to architecture. Almost by stealth, architects are turning back to more traditional forms. This is a trend which seems to be running throughout the profession from small young practices building their first block of old people's homes to enormous commercial firms building great town centre redevelopment schemes.

For some years now, architecture has been going through a time of stylistic upheaval, largely brought about by a loss of faith in the modern movement, which for a short time was accepted by most architects, though not the public, as a universal style. However, from the time of the collapse of the Ronan Point tower block in the late 1960s public opinion — spearheaded by the conservation societies — has rejected modern architecture, its refusal to consider the needs of people, and the uncompromising manner in which it impinged upon older townscapes.

This failure by architects is reflected in the necessity for local authorities, bowing to the wishes of the public, to issue design guides to control architects, and force them to build buildings that at least make a token attempt to conform to their surroundings. Now the developers have discovered that modern architecture is so unpopular with the public that it is no longer salable.

This has meant that architects are having to turn to an architecture which, with the use of more traditional materials and forms, offers a

#### Turning to forms with a more humane vision

considerably more humane vision. It is not a coincidence that this architecture should bear a close resemblance to Edwardian architecture (with its romanticism, its stylistic tolerance and its love of natural materials) since this was the last period of architectural development before the stultifying arrival of modernism.

The first important building in the new style was the Hillingdon Civic Centre built in 1976. As its architect, Andrew Derbyshire, of Robert Matthews, Johnson-Marshall and Partners, explained at a recent symposium held at the Art Workers Guild, The Hillingdon councillors "had very clear ideas about what they wanted their new civic centre to look like. They had had enough of orthogonal concrete and rectilinear, sharp

#### FULFILLING THE COUNCILLORS' EVERY IDEAL

The Hillingdon Civic Centre, with red brick walls, tile roofs, broken bays and lush green surrounds



things. The people of Hillingdon are self-selected suburbanites — they like living in houses you can 'walk round' — with some greenery, brick walls and a pitched tile roof. The councillors made it clear at our first interview that unless we were prepared to deliver that kind of aesthetic they were not interested in further talks."

The Hillingdon Civic Centre today, with its lush green planting growing round, and in some places sweeping over, the red brick walls, broken bays, under great hipped tile roofs which sometimes come down almost to the ground, seems to have fulfilled every ideal of the Hillingdon councillors.

That it has had a profound effect can be seen in many of the recent local government offices. Gone are the barren concrete expanses, vast sheets of glass and an uncompromising attitude to the neighbouring buildings. Sophisticates may find in buildings like the new headquarters of the Mole Valley District Council too much of *The Wind in the Willows* or *Disneyland*, with the small windows nestling in red brick walls set over great brick arches under caps of hipped tile roofs emulating east-houses or disused windmills. None the less, this is an architecture that for once genuinely reflects the taste of the public, who are after all paying for it. The architect has at last found his proper place in society, not as an artist who leads the public into ever more and spaces but as an ordinary technician who must respond to the wishes of those whom he serves.

It is in housing that this style has become most commonplace and there are times when the style, almost cloyingly twee, fully deserves to be called "Noddy architecture". However, architects like Jeremy Dixon have

#### DECORATIVE DEMARCATION

The Ealing Civic Centre. Covering a multitude of functions



eschewed this cottagey look and have yet managed to retain a traditional style of architecture that fits completely into the London street pattern while keeping to a strict budget.

Perhaps the most remarkable of this type of housing comes from the small firm of Pichin and Kellow. They have only so far built four small groups of flats and houses, but all of them are in a style which, although original, fits completely into the surrounding south London architecture where they build. This is largely brought about by the use of red diaper brick patterning which contrasts with the stock brickwork of the wall.

Possibly the most interesting is the simplest — a just completed block of studio flats in Church Street, Croydon. Here they have used a dark brown brick which matches the nearby parish church contrasting it with light buff diaper work which is used wittily to decorate what would otherwise be a dull little box. However it is not just in suburbia that this style occurs. Gavin Stamp has recently noted in these columns that Richard Seifert (of Centre Point) is at the moment building a red brick block with Tudor turrets in Shaftesbury Avenue.

Even more surprising is a block of buildings in Lovat Lane — a very narrow City path. Here another large commercial firm, the Thomas Saunders Partnership, are just completing an office development for the Guardian Royal Exchange, which for some

#### Tradition that fits into London's street pattern

reason they have called "The City Village". Perhaps the name is meant to explain the extraordinary, and not a little vulgar, architecture which combines features of all periods and in all scales, which have been thrown together with undeniable panache, each numbered "house" being in quite a different style. The distinct differentiation of each building was specifically requested by the clients so that each tenant could feel that his building was different from the neighbouring building.

Two other surprising, but less contentious, small office buildings have recently been built by big architectural firms. By Robert Chitham of Chapman Taylor & Partners is an office block at 15 Bloomsbury Square in a straightforward nineteenth-century London style. Above a rusticated stucco base are two floors of sash windows in London stock brickwork. Above these is a deep stucco frieze with windows which alternate with large decorative plaster cartouches. It is a facade of some subtlety, since an office

block requires that all the floors are of the same height, which of course is not true of the neighbouring houses. Chitham has succeeded in creating a building which suggests a piano-nobile and an attic while retaining even ceiling heights throughout, something that even the great Lutyns did not always achieve. The result is a new building that within a few years will fit completely within the cityscape and become unnoticed, which is what all good architecture should do.

The other office block, right in the City at 68 Cornhill, is designed by Richard Dickinson of Ralph Judd & Partners. It is stone faced and in the classical manner of the buildings on either side of it, and once again within

#### Setting about developing 'a local vernacular'

a short time, will fade into the streetline. The style of architecture used is the stripped classicism that came in just before the swing over to modern architecture and is almost as if Dickinson is picking up again just where architecture stopped in 1914.

Another building, the largest and most remarkable of all, also seems to be designed as though nothing had happened in architecture since 1914. This is the Ealing Civic Centre by the Building Design Partnership.

BDP in fact had a highly complex brief for a shopping precinct, a public library, a sports centre, a car park and a parade of shops with offices over had to be incorporated. Very sensibly the architects have decided to demarcate these different functions by putting them under different roofs, and this has led them to a style of architecture reminiscent of G. E. Street at the Law Courts in the Strand. They say they set about developing a "local vernacular", a style that takes in (R. Norman) Shaw, the towers of Pierrefonds and the idea of romanticism from Carcassonne.

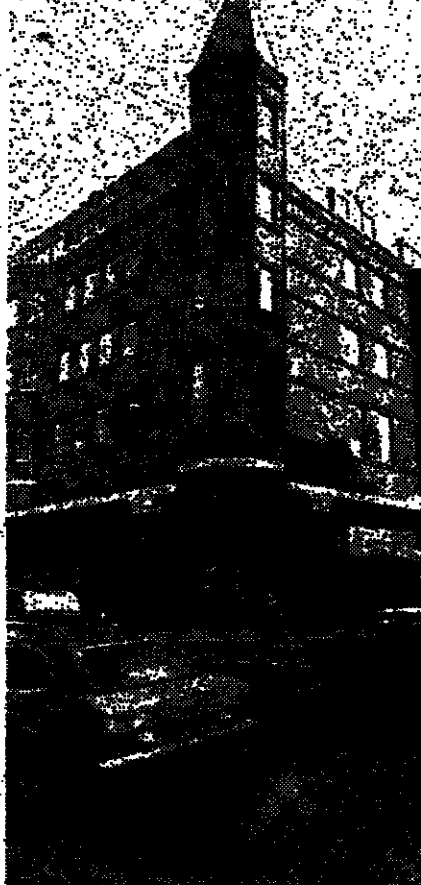
The building is in bright red brick with tall slate hipped roofs which sweep up in places into decorative wrought iron points capped with weather vanes. The main lift tower to the car park, corbelled out at the top under pepper-pot roof, pokes above and dominates the low shopping streets of Ealing, as does the surprising octagonal squash courts, perched high up in the air with a corbelled out balcony running round all eight sides. The covered shopping precinct opens out into a market square surrounded by an arched glazed cloister, from the centre of which a grand staircase rises between two tall towers leading to the first floor library.

On the other side, the square is dominated by a four-storey office



#### TUDOR TURRETS

Red brick in Shaftesbury Avenue



block, which does not look like any office block that we have seen for 50 years. However, its main feature is a line of bay windows capped with little hipped roofs which grow out from the great main roof. Even the car park has decorative framework to the ventilation openings and is approached by a ramp supported by leaping arches.

There can be little doubt that this is the type of architecture that people have been asking for, for a long time. It will be interesting to see whether it works in the humane way in which the revived Covent Garden does.

The 1880s were one of the most exciting decades of English architecture, which of course led to the greatest of all periods of architecture in England, the 1890s, when Lutyns, Voysey and the whole magnificent school of architects who made up the Arts and Crafts Movement flourished. It is unlikely that the 1980s will prove to be quite so fertile, but it does seem that if there is any architecture in the 1990s, it will be more humane than anyone could have thought possible in the arid 1960s.

moreover...  
Miles Kington

## A mountain of little molehills

I am risking imprisonment today by printing a series of memos between Michael Heseltine and Margaret Thatcher which have come into my possession. The original documents have been burnt in the office. The mole who leaked them to me has left the country and started a new life, after cosmetic surgery. Only I am left to carry the can. I am ready. Send your heavy boys round, Thatcher.

Heseltine to Thatcher. You have probably heard of this shocking business of a top secret document being left "by accident" in a phone box at Heathrow revealing details of our new, highly confidential radar plan. I'm sure you will agree that we ought to make an example of someone over this. Unfortunately, the espionage boys have no idea who was responsible. Failing a human suspect, could we not prosecute the phone box? Or at least those responsible for it, who I imagine are British Telecom, or whatever it's called this week. *Somebody's* got to be made responsible. I know how keen you are on people taking responsibility for their own actions.

Thatcher to Heseltine. I think your idea of prosecuting the owners of the phone box is excellent. Presumably someone in British Telecom must have signed the Official Secrets Act. Find out who it is, and bring him to book.

Heseltine to Thatcher. Phone box? Telecom? Prospective? I'm afraid I'm not with you, Margaret.

Thatcher to Heseltine. I enclose the memo you sent me about the phone box. I request your comments immediately.

Heseltine to Thatcher. I did not send that memo. I have had it examined by my chaps and they are of the opinion that it is the work of a skilled forger, somebody inside the Ministry of Defence. I suppose you know what this means, Margaret.

Thatcher to Heseltine. Stop beating about the bush Michael. What does it mean?

Heseltine to Thatcher. It means that we have a totally new kind of mole inside the ministry. Instead of leaking our documents to the press, he is leaking his own documents into our system, which could cause enormous trouble if he is not found. Leave it to me.

Thatcher to Heseltine. I would like your comments on a new idea for future foreign tours by the Queen. Apparently she was so closely guarded in Jordan and kept behind smoked car windows that nobody actually saw her. She might just as well have stayed at home. Do you think that for other visits to trouble spots, we could keep the Queen at home and only pretend she had gone abroad? It would be much cheaper, and she would be at no risk.

Heseltine to Thatcher. Quite honestly, I think the chances of getting the Queen to do a visit to Israel or somewhere without actually leaving the country are nil. She wouldn't stand for that. Pity — it's a wonderful idea.

Thatcher to Heseltine. Queen? Israel? Staying at home? Have you gone off your head, Michael? What is this all about?

Heseltine to Thatcher. Oh dear I think I have just received another fake memo. It is becoming almost impossible to communicate in writing. Do you think in future you could identify your own genuine memos with a small sign? I suggest that you include in each communication the phrase: "Cruse are wonderful. Cruse are fine. Cruse are here, and they're mine, mine mine." Then I will know it's really from you, Margaret.

Thatcher to Heseltine. I've just had the most extraordinary memo from your ministry, presumably from your mole. I want action immediately please.

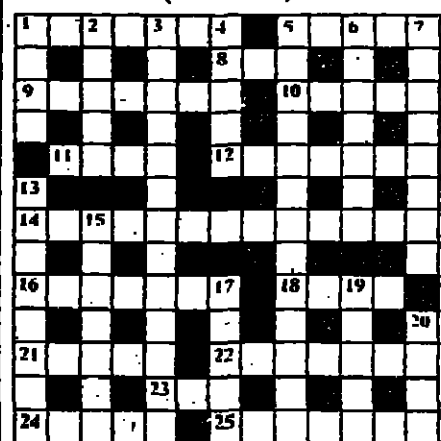
Heseltine to Thatcher. Actually, it was genuine.

Thatcher to Heseltine. Michael this exchange of memos must now cease. Come and see me at once.

Heseltine to Thatcher. You come and see me, you middle-class monster. I'm far too busy defending this country against its own population to come bowing and scraping to you.

Thatcher to Mole. I am coming to get you, mole. Just you wait.

#### CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 305)



- ACROSS  
1 Main person (7)  
5 Shears (5)  
8 Spacewalk (1,1,1)  
9 Work building (7)  
10 Summarise (5)  
11 Swing round (4)  
12 Upper chamber member (7)  
14 Complete form change (13)  
16 Destructive behaviour (7)  
18 Pleasant (4)  
21 Bird's nest (5)  
22 Stop up (7)  
23 Final state (3)  
24 Straight edge (5)  
25 Pastoral poem (7)
- DOWN  
1 Chublain (4)  
2 Wall recess (5)  
3 Mayflower Puritan (7,6)  
4 Ethiopian emperor (7)  
5 Bracketed (13)  
6 Discovers (7)  
7 Hold in check (8)  
13 Not seemly (8)  
15 Guillotine cart (7)  
17 Wear down (5)  
19 Held fast (5)  
20 Marsh (4)

SOLUTION TO No 304  
ACROSS: 1 Hypocrite 5 Stage 8 UNO 9 Quorum  
10 Little 11 Agin 12 Riddle 14 Wastelower  
17 Hundreds? 19 Cove 21 Bistro 23 Avenue  
24 Car 25 Branch 26 Doyley  
DOWN: 2 Young 3 Hardwood 4 Numerical  
6 Solid 6 Out 7 Galilee 13 Crochety 15 Hauler  
16 Bastard 18 Epoch 20 Vogue 22 Ten

## THE TIMES Tomorrow

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FRIDAY PAGE

Geoffrey Cannon on new research into bad diet and lazy habits in the West

# Lifestyle with a death knell

MEDICAL BRIEFING SPECIAL



Barrie McGregor Turner

Group at the Royal College of Physicians next month.

Many of the battles of prevention have been won in America, in the teeth of furious opposition from the food industry, and impediments created by the Reagan Administration. In January the *Journal of the American Medical Association* published the results of the Lipid Research Clinic's coronary primary prevention trial. This proved that lowering the level of cholesterol in the blood — most simply done by means of eating less saturated fat and less dietary cholesterol — reduces the risk of death from heart disease.

This month, the American Heart Association (AHA), the force behind the LRC-CPPT trial, held its twenty-fourth annual conference on cardiovascular disease epidemiology, in Tampa, Florida. For two days, speaker after speaker attested to the doctrine laid down by Professor Jeremiah Stamler in tones of utmost confidence: "Heart disease can be dealt with effectively only through prevention."

Stamler told me that his life's work was official acceptance of a "public policy for the prevention of premature epidemic heart disease." He believes that the tens of thousands of professionals, supported by hundreds of thousands of lay participants in America, have "turned the flank of this huge problem."

Some of the papers presented at the conference were as follows:

Exercise reduces the risk of fatal heart disease. From 1960 to 1981, a study was made of 3,933 initially healthy men aged between 30-64. They were divided into two groups: active and inactive. Over the 21 years, the risk of fatal ischaemic heart disease was almost three times greater for sedentary, than for active, men. This finding supports previous large-scale studies carried out in San Francisco by Professor Ralph Paffenbarger, and in London by Professor Jerry Morris. The AHA study was headed by Professor David Snowdon, of Loma Linda University, California, who found also that "low physical activity and high meat consumption may interact in the production of heart disease." The most impressive finding was that former smokers who were physically active were considerably less likely to die of heart disease as "physical activity may substantially shorten the half-life of carbon monoxide in the blood."



Healthy eating is a family affair in which mothers and daughters take the lead. Five schools in Millbrae, California, took part in a project involving teachers, parents, and children at school and at home. Three schools taught healthy eating according to guidelines laid down by the AMA — less fat and cholesterol in the diet; but more polyunsaturated oils. To schools, the "controls" made no changes. The project lasted from September 1982 to June 1983. At the end the amount of unhealthy "low density lipoprotein" had dropped 12 per cent in the mother who had changed their eating habits. The daughters showed an enormous drop of 24 per cent. Dr Thomas Bersot, of the University College of San Francisco, who presented the paper, described the changes in fathers and sons as far less impressive. "A family approach is an effective way of promoting eating behaviour changes which appear to occur first in mothers and daughters," he said.



Hormone replacement therapy increases the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Women in America and now in Britain are frequently prescribed oestrogen during the menopause. The Framingham heart study looked at the results over 24 years of this hormone replacement therapy. In 1,334 women aged 51 to 83, Dr Peter Wilson said the study showed that the therapy more than doubled the risk of strokes and almost doubled the risk of coronary heart disease. There was no benefit to overall death rate, and an increase in cardiovascular morbidity, especially stroke.



Fat people eat less than thin people. This paradox, first extensively investigated by Professor Peter Wood of Stanford University, was supported by the results of a study presented by Dr George Sopko of St. Louis, Missouri. Dr Sopko found, in a group of healthy obese men, an inverse relationship between caloric intake and body fatness, and, in general, that the fatter the men were, the less they ate. (The measurement was made in calories related to body

weight.) Dr Sopko also confirmed the findings of Professor Jerry Morris, from British studies, that people who eat a lot are less likely to suffer or die from heart disease. In discussion, Professor Wood pointed out the implication of these findings: that fat people should not eat less, but exercise more.



The drop in deaths from stroke does not have much to do with improved hospital care. Deaths from stroke in the Minneapolis-St Paul area were studied, comparing 1970 with 1980. Following the American (and British) national pattern, there was an impressive drop in deaths from stroke: from 89.4 per 100,000 in men, to 47.5; from 72.6 per 100,000 in women, to 40.9. But the reason seemed to be control of high blood pressure outside hospital; Dr Gomez-Martin, of the University of Minnesota, said that "improvement of medical care was not a substantial factor in the reduction of stroke mortality." In discussion, Professor John Farquhar of Stanford University suggested that people in the West have tended to consume less sodium and more potassium in the past 50 years, as canning and then freezing have replaced salting as a means of preserving foods. Salt is a prime cause of high blood pressure and this increases the risk of stroke.



Effective health education in the community reduces the risk of heart disease. Professor Farquhar, head of heart disease prevention unit at Stanford "Five City" project which 110,000 people in 10 cities are being encouraged to eat healthy food, stop smoking, and take exercise. In other cities 340,000 people are being studied as "controls" with no special encouragement. After 30 months, Professor Farquhar reported that the "active" people in the two cities were noticeably more aware of the issues; and that their blood pressure and blood cholesterol levels were dropping significantly. He calculated that the net reduction in cardiovascular disease risk factors as 12 per cent so far. "We are on target for a 20 per cent reduction in risk factors by the end of the project," he stated. In Britain this percentage would mean 40,000 deaths a year fewer, from heart disease and stroke combined.

## FIRST PERSON

I'm just a business perk

In common with other feminists manques I agonize a little on how to fill the gap left for occupation on a passport renewal form. You are meant to describe yourself as "housewife" but it would be just as accurate in my case to put "brain surgeon" since my qualifications for both are about equal. "Journalist" is tempting but rather foolhardy since in some of the countries I want to visit it is an open invitation to be detained at the pleasure of whoever is in power. Neither am I the sort of person to capitalize on the situation and write my innermost thoughts for publication on my release. I tried putting "dietician" once but that wasn't allowed.

Actually the truest description would be "perk". Along with the car which is also hard to get started in the morning, I am part of my husband's contract, namely that I, the lady wife, the object of his every waking thought, should be allowed to accompany him on a business trip abroad occasionally.

Perks are a grey area in the business world: everybody has them but it is not considered nice to talk about them. The whole thing smacks of shady deals. "Pss! Want a nice fat chicken on questions asked?" and all that. Being a perk is an ambivalent role. It takes an extremely laid back wife to sail through a life of luxury hotels and jet travel, however brief a hiatus it is in her otherwise mundane existence and not feel a tiny twinge of guilt. Your husband is probably working very hard while you are totally idle. I always forget and refer to it as "our holiday" — an unforgivable crime.

The trouble is that husbands can often feel uneasy too. Mine is half thrilled to have me around and half riddled with puritanical guilt. He keeps urging me to enjoy myself and then dashes cups of coffee from my lips and accuses me of wild extravagance. And there are enough other partakers of perks who so horribly abuse the privilege you feel ashamed to be part of the conspiracy. There is a strong case for abolishing the perks system and simply increasing the salary to accommodate a wife's travel expenses but I have been a wife longer than a perk and know that in real life things don't work out that way.

## The best of trips combine play with work

It is a great pity that perkery has this tarnished reputation because I firmly believe that if a husband wants to take his wife with him occasionally, he should be able to do so, particularly if he travels frequently. Unless you have shared the experience of an overseas trip it is hard to believe your husband when he claims that 90 per cent of travelling is tedious and lonely and his stories and enthusiasms mean so much more when you have seen the places he is talking about. It is very easy to feel resentful when all major domestic crises seem to wait until he is away. Even when he returns things can be tense. Exhausted but suspiciously bronzed and reeking of airline Handy Moist Tissue Wipes which barely mask the unmistakable odour of the good life, he sinks into bed to sleep for 24 hours in order to get his strength up to go back to work. As a friend in a similar circumstance said mournfully, "He gets the jet, we get the lag." In the cause of domestic harmony alone, I am all for a bit of perkery.

There is the purely practical point of view too that a wife can be a valuable asset on an overseas trip. Having a wife along with you is a sure way of leaving the formal atmosphere of an office and "getting your feet under the table". Many an important negotiation has been clinched round a family barbeque or a trip to see the sights.

The opportunities for us perks to travel present themselves in a variety of ways. It can be a week long jolly at some conference where the hardest thing you are expected to do is to become browner than other wives, or it can be a onerous slog through a dozen different countries where the stamina of your digestive tract and your body clock's ability to adjust come under severe strain. If your husband works hard on these trips your life can be spent in hotel bedrooms waiting for him because you are too shy or too exhausted to venture out on your own. In my experience the best trips from a business as well as personal point of view combine a bit of play with work.

Actually I love being a perk. It reconciles me to my husband's long absences if I have a trip to look forward to. I rather enjoy feeling slightly illicit. I adore abandoning my sobbing children to someone else's tender mercies for a short time — as I tell them, I will love them more when I get back. I get an enormous thrill out of leading a totally unrealistic life of elevators, and hotel room numbers and complicated foreign showers and gin at eight in the morning because it's really 12.30 English time. I get high on the Tever falling taxis rickshaws from the airport to another strange city which until then has only been a name in a James Bond novel.

Apart from the exhilarating danger of it all it is educational too. After all, how else could I learn to say, "May I have receipt please?" in 12 different languages?

Anne Swain

## TALKBACK

# Stillborn but still painful

## Insurance test

From Margaret Pelling, Oxford Road, Cumnor, Oxford.

I was appalled to learn from your "Comment" column, "Headstone for Baby" (Wednesday Page, March 21) of the crass attitudes of some hospitals and parish councils towards marking babies' graves. I can attest to the comfort brought to parents by being able to put up a headstone which commemorates their baby's life in the same manner as any other human existence.

My second son, John, died when he was nine hours old. His grave, in our village churchyard, is marked by a stone giving full name, date of birth and death and a subdued but fitting epitaph.

This surely demonstrates that there are no "rules" for officials to hide behind. What is possible in one parish council must be possible in the rest of the country, and I would join Hazelanne Lewis in urging officials to adopt more humane attitudes.

From The Rev. Ian W. Williams, The Vicarage, Christ Church Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire.

I read Hazelanne Lewis' "Headstone for baby" with great interest and no less sympathy.

I was horrified to discover, soon after my arrival in this parish, that stillborn children delivered at a local maternity unit had been buried in my churchyard without ceremony, in unmarked graves.

Last year I was contacted by a mother whose stillborn son had been buried here 10 years ago. It was evident that she had never begun the process of grief. We were able to locate the general area of the burial, hold a brief service, and arrange for a memorial stone.

I feel sure that this provided a very necessary "trigger" for that mother's grief. I am resolved never again to allow stillborn children to be buried in my churchyard in unmarked graves and without ceremony, and to try and encourage parental involvement in any funeral.

I hope that other parents will find a more sympathetic ear from local clergy than they appear to receive from some hospital and burial authorities.

## Training poll

From Philip Gaisford, Carmel Building, Temple, London EC4Y 7AT.

The report by Marcel Berlins and Clare Oyer (Friday Page, March 16) raises profound questions about the training of our judiciary, but is sadly lacking in evidence to support its implied preference for the continental system. To ascertain the facts objectively, I suggest that at the very least a poll of prisoners on the Continent should have been conducted by way of questionnaire. I hastily suggest the following:

1. Do you feel that your next sentence should be passed by:
  - (a) someone who had had daily experience of putting forward the merits of defendants and urging leniency upon the courts, or
  - (b) a career judge seeking promotion?
2. Would you prefer that your next trial be conducted by:
  - (a) someone with 25 years of daily practical experience of protecting your rights, or
  - (b) the young jack-in-office who put you here?
3. Please indicate your preference for the personal appearance of your next judge:
  - (a) someone who "could be taken for a middle-range business executive", or
  - (b) someone resembling an assistant stage-hand at a provincial repertory company, a retired research chemist, a bus conductor, or other.

From R. A. Barnett, Franchise, Saxton Road, Battle, Sussex.

I do not think that Mr J. R. Spencer (Friday Page, March 23) has properly researched his subject.

I am insured by the Commercial Union (not by choice but because they took over the British General, with whom I was happily insured for many years), and annually since I was about 72 (I am now 80) I have had to produce a doctor's certificate stating my fitness to drive. My last one, in June last year, cost me £19. It is perhaps irrelevant to suggest that this is very high payment for a few minutes' work by anyone on their own premises.

I must admit to an accident. It occurred in about 1932 or 1933, and it was one in which no one was hurt.

My point is that I am certified as fit to drive because my insurance company insist on it. I would infinitely rather that my certification was a legal necessity due to an act of Parliament, because then I would probably be able to have it done on the National Health.

From Mrs B. Durrant, Chaucer Rd, Cambridge.

I felt compelled to overcome the habit of a lifetime, that of not writing to *The Times*, in order to support the cause of octogenarian car drivers, of whom I am one. Mr Spencer's exposition (Friday March 23) of the case for removing their licences, or at least subjecting them to compulsory tests, is strangely inadequate. Where are his statistics?

I challenge him to provide a study of accidents caused by octogenarians as compared with accidents caused by, say, male drivers of executive cars, aged between 40 and 50 years. Why should only old people who are "demonstrably unfit" be prevented from driving? What about drugs and drink?

## Tax privilege

From David G. Lindsay, 36 Orchard Coombe, Whitechurch Hill, Reading.

I am sorry you have seen fit to expend no less than 42 column inches of valuable *Times* space in seeking a special tax privilege for a narrow category of parent, when the space could have been more usefully employed pointing out to the Chancellor that there exists a very substantial gap between the minimum cost of acceptably bringing up a child and the amount of the child benefit. This gap has to be bridged by all, not merely some, parents supporting minor children.

I would have thought that everyone, including the childless, would consider it right and fair that all who support children should be entitled to a child tax allowance of an amount commensurate with the adult single allowance, but reduced by the amount of the child benefit, as a tax allowance of about £1,200 for older children and £900 for younger.

Child tax allowances at these figures would take many poor families out of the tax net altogether and make the whole tax system much fairer as between those supporting and those not supporting children.

## Next week Monday Page meets the vegetarian eaters

**CORRECTION**  
The figure of £60m a year given for the value of cigarettes smoked by 11 to 16-year olds in a recent government survey (Monday Page, March 12) was extrapolated from an inquiry among 5,000 children and did not apply only to the subjects of the survey.

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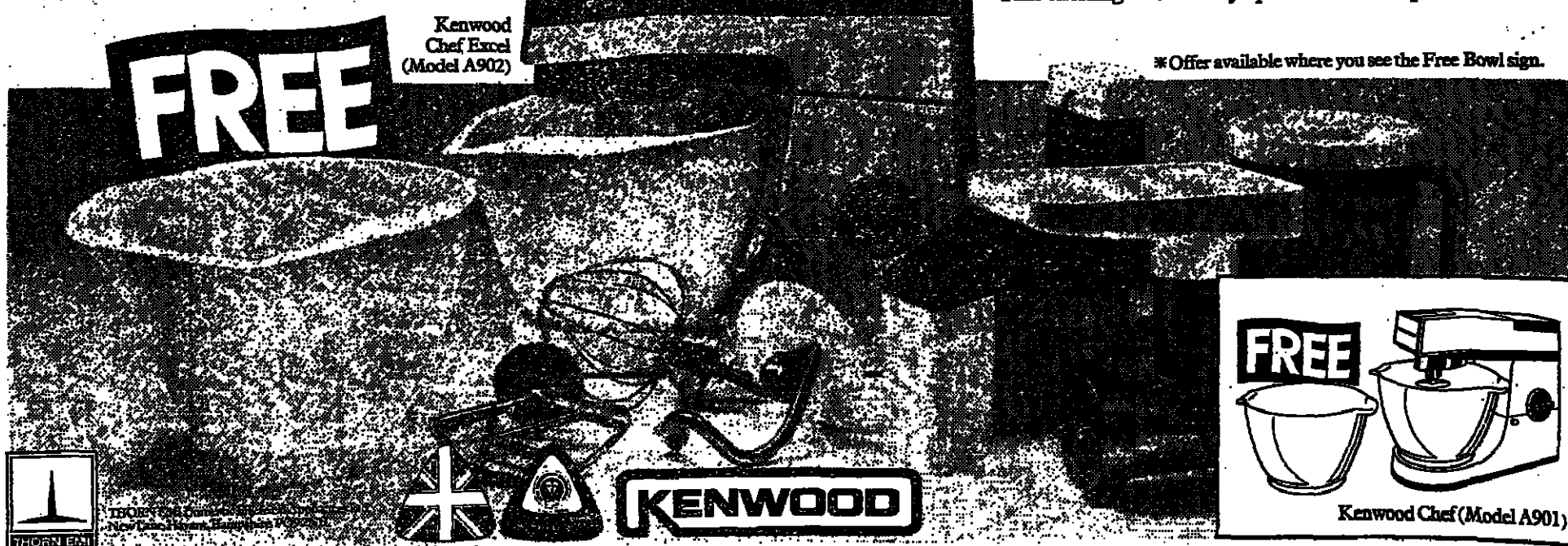
Free spare Kenlyte bowl with all Chef models

The Chef Excel is already the most comprehensive food preparation system in the world. And now Kenwood are making it even more useful. That's because if you buy an Excel now we'll give you a free spare D-shaped Kenlyte bowl. It's an offer that means you won't have to wash out your bowl when you're preparing different courses. The exclusive D-shaped bowl makes

handling, adding ingredients, inspection and pouring simpler. The Excel also has a 'K' beater, Whisk, Dough Hook, Spatula, Mincer, Liquidiser and High Speed Slicer and Shredder.

What's more, Kenwood are also giving away a standard Kenlyte bowl with any other Chef model you buy. That's the world famous Chef, of course, and the stylish Chef de Luxe with its stainless steel bowl.

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Kenwood Chef (Model A901)



# THE TIMES DIARY

## A melting appeal

Neil Kinnock ought perhaps to drop his pop-video co-star Tracy Ullman in favour of Vera Lynn if he is planning a double act for a sing-song on Monday night at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, to raise money for the European elections. The Labour leader is going to bellow "Keep right on to the end of the road" for the benefit of 1,200 pensioners, with accompanying vocals from Barbara Castle and Jack Jones, the former union leader. At the finale, Kinnock will jump, not from a cake, but a 300lb butter mountain. To publicize the scandal of the EEC surplus, Kinnock will distribute the packs - each in a specially-printed wrapper proclaiming it to be a "bit of the butter mountain" - free to pensioners. Interesting. Since when has the Manchester Co-op - who I discovered donated the packs - harboured a butter mountain?

## Bugs and bores

Viewers of the first political interview ever granted in Soviet Russia to western television, "War and Peace: The View from Moscow" - to be shown on Channel 4 on Sunday - should not be fooled by the impromptu demeanour of the Russian officials who participate. The Producer, Nick Fraser, tells me that General Starodubov, the Kremlin's nuclear expert, and General Zagladin, the ideology mouthpiece, knew every detail of the interview in advance, his bedroom having been "bugged". Fraser claims to have uncovered the identity of the person who planted the "bug" - an Intourist guide - after a Soviet official made a slip to the programme interviewer, Donald Treford, editor of *The Observer*.

Kremlin watchers keen to know more about Chernenko will be disappointed. Zhores Medvedev, Andrei's biographer, whose brother Roy is under KGB surveillance in Moscow, has refused a request by his publishers Basil Blackwell to write a Chernenko biography "because he is such a bore". Medvedev, who works as a scientist in North London, tells me that Suslov, a member of the Politburo, has the reputation of being the ultimate bore. Chernenko, he says, is worse.

## Seeing red

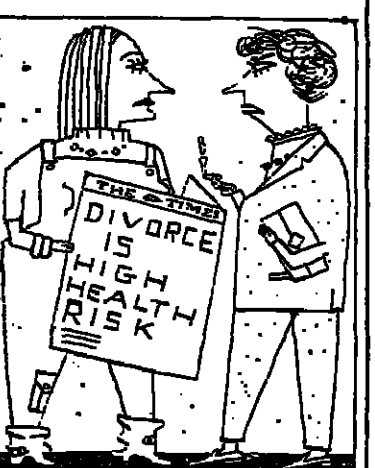
The cover of the latest issue of the Soviet weekly *New Times* carries the headline "Tories against the unions", and shows a white-haired stocky figure being manhandled while police look on. Unfortunately the man being assaulted is Ian MacGregor, NCB chairman, who was pushed to the ground in the melee.

## Literary prize

Though David Pinner, the author, denies it, the hero of his book *There'll Always Be An England*, to be published in May, seems to be modelled on Dr Stephen Haseler, co-founder of the SDP. Pinner has even dedicated it to Dr Haseler, who has been sent a copy for his approval.

Like Haseler, Pinner's hero Roy Hampton defects from the Labour Party to the SDP. He does so as a Labour MP - a status Haseler never achieved, despite two attempts as a candidate of the party - at Saffron Walden in 1966, and Maldon in 1970. The book ends with defector Hampton pledging to prise Healey, Hattersley, Shore and Callaghan from the Labour Party, while on his Tory hit list are Heath, Pym, Walker, Prior and Gilmour. I wonder.

BARRY FANTONI



"And how high, do you suppose, they rate staying married to Neville?"

## Clearing house

Libel case devotees are to be deprived of the spectacle of one part of the Trafalgar House empire suing another part. Speculation arose when Trafalgar's homebuilding subsidiary New Deal Holdings objected to a report in *The Standard* (half owned by Trafalgar House) which erroneously suggested that some of its houses were built on the site of a contaminated rubbish tip. A swift and fulsome correction suggested New Deal before any writs could fly, but not before the paper's *Standard* editor, Lou Kirby, fired off a scathing memo to his staff, reiterating established policy that any stories about Trafalgar House companies must be cleared with him before publication.

PHS

# How Tina changed her wardrobe

## Sarah Hogg examines the state of the economy three years after 364 experts attacked the government's basic strategy

were two-a-penny, plentiful, costless - an unintentional naivety that rebounded on the signatories.

A worse mistake was in their timing. March 1981, turned out to be almost exactly the bottom of the slump: since then national output has risen nearly 8 per cent. Inflation, meanwhile, has continued falling, from 13 per cent then to about 5 per cent now. Rather more than coincidentally, by 1981 the government's most glaring mistakes were behind it. While it was possible, then, to complain that the mix of monetary and budgetary policies was still too tight, there was a new and courageous coherence between the two.

Even with hindsight, however, the major signatories have not much changed their views. They have three overlapping arguments. First, that there has not really been an economic recovery at all; second, that such an upturn as there has been in production has come about because policies were quietly changed; and third, that the government's claim to have reduced inflation permanently will not really be tested until there is a proper recovery.

There is force in all three arguments. Unemployment has

continued to rise, to the government's discomfort; in this sense, the depression has got much worse since 1981. Government policy did change, intentionally or unintentionally, in ways that boosted demand. Consumer spending was stimulated by the unwrapping of credit controls (just as investment is now being artificially stimulated by the phased abolition of capital allowances against corporation tax). And public spending turned out to be higher than planned. All these help to strengthen the recovery, which even so has barely brought the level of output back to its 1979 level. It is true, too, that the test of the government's counter-inflation strategy will only come when the labour market tightens - and we can see what happens to wages.

But whatever the signatories now say they actually meant, they were certainly not understood at the time to be predicting a turnaround to the 3 per cent growth and 5 per cent inflation we saw last year and are likely to see again during this. While it is too soon for the government to claim convincingly that it has conquered inflation, its critics should be wary of confident assertions that it will soon be rising again. And there is just a hint, in their arguments today, of trying to

have the Government both ways: claiming that ministers are under cover Keynesians while simultaneously complaining they are not Keynesian enough.

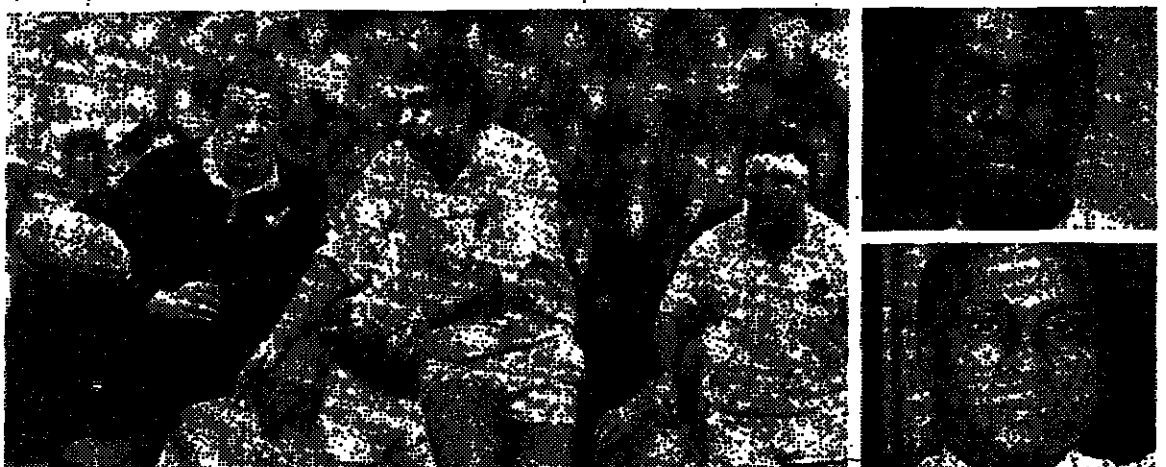
Where both sides, by and large, got the economy wrong was in failing to guess what the extreme monetary pressures of 1979-81 would do to industry. On the Government's side, this led to too much optimism on unemployment, since 1981 the modest growth it has been aiming for has not been enough to match the rise in industrial productivity, which means it has not been enough to prevent unemployment rising. On its critics' side, this has led to too much pessimism on inflation - that sharp rise in productivity meant costs and prices slowed down unexpectedly fast.

Unfortunately, this common error has done nothing to bring the two sides together. The round-robin has left the Government with a grievance against the economics profession - a more pointed example of its general impatience with the public sector. It is a rare speech by the Government apologists on the economic recovery that does not begin by raising an easy laugh at the expense of the 364.

Academics who venture into the political battlefield must be prepared to take what comes. The 364 have made themselves a natural target. It would be nice, just the same, to see more meeting of minds, less defensive trench warfare over what is supposed to be an academic discipline. He who is not-for-me-is-against-me is not a good motto for scientific debate.

## David Miller on the England rugby tour likely to be approved today

## Foul play but still a try against apartheid?



England's Rugby Union team in action against New Zealand's All Blacks. The proposed South African tour is vigorously opposed by activists like Chief Abraham Ordia, top, and Sam Ramsamy.

towards the boycott on October 1, 1960, the day Nigeria gained independence from Britain. The Rome Olympics had ended the day before, and Ordia confronted Avery Brundage, then president of the IOC, with the Olympic Charter, claiming its regulations demanded South Africa's exclusion on grounds of racial discrimination.

In 1967, before the Mexico Olympics, Ordia said he would accept South Africa's entry if integrated merit trials were held, even if outside the country in Swaziland or what was then Rhodesia. The Pretoria government refused. I asked why, if he prepared then to accept such a possible compromise, he now rejects the relatively substantial concession which has been achieved.

Ramsamy answered for him. A former South African teacher, he is confident that the IOC would not act without the approval of the Supreme Council and Sanro; and there could be no end to the boycott while racial segregation laws were still part of the constitution.

Another argument, albeit anathema to both the church and the UN, does unquestionably exist within black/coloured South Africa. Curmish Mdyesha, president of the black SA Rugby Association and a member of the integrated (previously white) SA Rugby Board, which is led by Danie Craven, is adamant that compromise and change by degrees is the only peaceful hope for a mixed South African society.

Visiting London last week, Mdyesha cited how the board paid full-time coaches for the Association, the 50,000 mixed schoolchildren who attended the board's coaching courses last year, the 17 Western Province coloured school teams in open competition, the white parents who oppose white headmasters attempting to exclude

pupils from mixed play, the national under-13 championship in which blacks beat whites, the 26 new integrated cricket clubs formed since December, 1983.

Mdyesha is sceptical about the UN anti-apartheid slogan. "No normal sport in an abnormal society". What society is normal, he asks. He points instead to the 15 per cent coloured and black pupils in private schools who constitute a tiny but significant 0.75 per cent of the school population (even that was unthinkable a few years ago), and to the black students enrolling at the Afrikaans stronghold of Stellenbosch University. "If sport is open, how can the Group Areas Act [which restricts inland travel for non-white South Africans] remain a permanent reality? The moderate blacks, coloureds and whites must get between the black and white extremes to prevent the explosion," he says.

Duggie Dyers, a coloured Springbok rugby selector, is even more emphatic, claiming that 80 per cent of coloured sport is integrated, not 1 per cent as alleged by Peter Hain on this page on Wednesday. Referring to the incident of Colin Croft, the West Indian cricketer removed from a whites-only railway carriage, Dyers says: "I would be prepared, for the moment, to travel home with the devil himself, because the integrated rugby or cricket match I have attended will determine, ultimately, how soon the trains are changed. Sport has shown the government how to move; it has opened the hotels and restaurants."

Forsaking the substantial financial advantages to be gained from his builder's trade, Dyers instead risked being labelled an Uncle Tom "to encourage my people to be reasonable instead of spreading antagonism and violence. I stand totally against any form of apartheid but I am not prepared to pin my

hopes on people outside South Africa. There is a new order of whites; the old order will die out. The England rugby tour will make little difference. An integrated South African Olympic team would be one of the greatest in the world. What would that do for our people?"

What will be the effect of an England tour? Sir Arthur Gold, chairman of English Commonwealth Games Council, will not accept any political manipulation of the code of conduct but yesterday he sent a letter of protest to the Rugby Union, as required.

Sir Arthur stresses that England can be suspended or expelled only for "gross non-fulfilment" of the Gleneagles Declaration, but he admits that the rugby tour will inevitably draw hostile propaganda against all English sport.

Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport, believes the next few weeks "will be very difficult for Commonwealth sports". He is worried not only for the Commonwealth and Olympic games but for rugby itself. He is committed by Gleneagles to "advise" against the tour, but no more.

Cyril Kobus, the black general manager of the fully integrated National Professional Soccer League, South Africa's major sporting event for predominantly black crowds, echoes his rugby colleagues when he says: "We would welcome readmission to international football if that were possible, irrespective of social and political conditions."

Undoubtedly sport offers a major influencing force - within the country. The world sporting bodies could set rigorous terms, down to school level, as the price of selective readmission. The Rugby Union is probably right to go but for the wrong reasons, since it is demanding no concessions. Any moral righteousness is for its own members rather than black people.

There are therefore those who say the temple should be raided by the forces of law and order. If the government does raid the temple, reaction will be explosive through-out Punjab, in areas where there are Sikhs - in the rest of India, such as Delhi, and even abroad in London, Melbourne and Toronto.

The tension in Amritsar is such that tourists are staying away in droves. Some embassies are advising their nationals not to visit Punjab at all. One lone group of Americans visited the temple last week. They were ecstatic about the atmosphere of the holy place, and visited it at night under a full moon. "But," said Mr Flave Peters from Arkansas, "those men with the guns... it was eerie."

Michael Hamlyn

David Watt

# A pillar of hope for the EEC

I still believe instinctively that the European Economic Community will resolve the central tangle of the British contribution, the budget and the agricultural policy, and that it will move quite soon to higher things. On the other hand, the immediate evidence to the contrary obviously forces anyone in this precarious state of mind to ask himself whether he is not suffering from that well-known malady, lingering sentimentality aggravated by optimistic delusions.

The case for pessimism is a strong one - stronger even than most people realize. The problem lies less in the actual clash of interests or even the amounts of cash involved (intractable though these are) than in the psychological attitudes that have grown up on all sides during the course of a decade.

What matters so difficult is the weary, and by now quite ineradicable, conviction on the Continent that it is the mean-minded and intolerably insular British who are preventing the Community from living happily ever after, and the equally deep-seated belief of the British that they are being taken for a ride by a bunch of crafty and rapacious peasants.

The tendency of these stereotypes to generate, and then justify, all kinds of error and bloody-mindedness is horribly illustrated by the commercial débacle at last week's summit and since. Mrs Thatcher appears at the counter and grinds on for hour after hour with her old haggle; her partners become tired and irritated out of their wits, having heard it all a hundred times before.

Chancellor Kohl, in an excess of exasperation and an ox-like well-meaning, blunders into the carefully arranged French chair. Mrs Thatcher belabours his rump and knocks over anything in the shop that he has left intact; the foreign ministers stand arguing in the wreckage, and the onlookers, each from his own point of view, shout: "We told you so".

Why then you may ask, am I so convinced that we are still in business? Partly perhaps, it is sentiment. But it is not all wishful thinking. I can also see some evidence that the main actors really are aware of the wider context of their own national needs.

Chancellor Kohl, for instance, is clearly conscious that he is in grave danger of being ground to bits between the upper millstone of German domestic politics, which requires that the "opening of the East" should be kept well and truly open, and the nether millstone of the present American obsession with the Soviet menace. He cannot risk the possibility of losing US military and moral support, but equally cannot afford to lower the temperature of East-West relations in Central Europe in a way that German public opinion would regard as gratuitous.

In this difficult spot, the best safety is in numbers. If he can enhance the "European", as opposed to the specifically German, dimension of his differences with Washington, he can hope to avoid the worst consequences of American displeasure - especially if that "Euro-pean-ness" has a Community gloss on it.

President Mitterrand has slightly different preoccupations. He inherits the national fixation about independence from America's suzerainty, but is less inclined than his immediate predecessors for that reason to take an indulgent view of the Soviet

Union. On the contrary, his domestic struggle against the Communists within the French left inclines him to take a tough line. This means extreme concern on the part of the present French government at the possible neutralist direction of German policy. Mitterrand's response to this problem has been to preserve the closest possible links with Kohl, in spite of their ideological differences. But it is fairly clear that he does not regard that as being enough. He has taken out insurance in the form of a counter-balancing strategy, which includes more cooperation with Nato, more development of a European identity, and also, in principle, a better Franco-British relationship.

Where does Mrs Thatcher stand? In the past, one would have answered: "A good way offshore". She put most of her money firmly on the Anglo-American relationship at the outset of her prime ministership, and doubled her bet when the "wet" Carter gave way to the decidedly more congenial Reagan. Europe, in her eyes, was not exactly "written off"; she is a realist and has long accepted that our trade and investment patterns make withdrawal a non-starter. On the other hand, she took a minimalist view of the EEC and was not inclined to sacrifice British interests (narrowly defined) in order to enhance its corporate effectiveness.

Now things look a bit different. The Prime Minister is still, of course, an Atlanticist. But since she started to take a strong personal interest in foreign affairs, after the departure of Lord Carrington and the end of the Falklands War, she has become increasingly aware of the fact that US and British interests do not always coincide precisely, and that there are severe limits to the leverage Britain can expect to exert over an unusually self-willed American administration.

The Granada affair was a traumatic shock to her and if, as it is said, she told President Reagan that Anglo-American relations would never be the same again, she seems to have described at least her own state of mind with some accuracy. President Mitterrand's pitch to her in their bilateral meeting earlier this month - which was that Britain could make a major contribution to the building of a more distinctive European pillar to the alliance - apparently fell on ears that were tuned almost for the first time to that long wavelenght.

The implications of this conjunction of European interests are potentially enormous, of course - for the individual countries as well as the EEC. It is no good expecting a European "pillar" simply to rise from the earth of its own accord. It would have to be built laboriously out of many stones, such as European defence and foreign policy cooperation, that are still very rough-hewn, to say nothing of some, such as an industrial policy, an energy policy, and a transport policy, that have not yet been cut at all.

Nevertheless, these perspectives are beginning to open up, whether we like it or not, and it is because they are that the financial quarrel will be settled. The EEC is not precisely "doomed to succeed"; human history is too littered with folly and accident for one to be sure of that. But strong external forces are pushing its members together, and they may triumph where human frailty has failed.

Philip Howard

# Ten of the best between the covers

We do know, don't we, boys and girls, that lists of best authors are a jolly after-dinner game for those who go in for such things, or an indication that the Book Marketing Council is trying to shift more of its products. Such lists represent no more than the tastes, reading, swank, and cussedness of those who pick them. Nevertheless, we are going to play the game today. We are joining our contemporaries in Europe to select "the ten greatest European writers of all time", without being tiresome by asking what precisely is meant by greatest, pray.

I got into this through the good offices of *Our Paris Correspondent*, bless her little cotton socks. *Life* magazine, a sort of down-market *Frog* *YLS*, is organizing a poll of its readers, and those of *The Times*, *Die Zeit*, *La Stampa*, and *El País*. Readers of these publications in the five countries are being asked to nominate the ten greatest writers of all time in Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain. To be considered, the writers must be dead. For the purposes of the game, Germany includes any German-language literature, so you can have Kafka; but Spanish does not include Latin American literature. I take it that we cannot have Virgil under Italian; and I worry about the Irish. No Americans, or other emigrant Brits, anyway.

The polls are being published in the five countries over the next week. Entries must be sent to me. God help me, by April 20, the results will be collated by our computer, that is me, and the results will be published on May 29, just before the European elections.

We shall then be able to announce not only "the ten greatest European authors of all time", but possibly also detect interesting differences between, for example, German and Spanish perceptions of the best British writers. To make things even more vexing, for the purposes of the game, writer is defined as "creative" writer: this means, apparently, poets, novelists, and playwrights, but not historians or philosophers (which is going to make compiling the German list scaly).

*Life* and some of the others are publishing suggested lists of names, with little boxes beside them so that their readers can tick those they choose, cut out the page, and send it in as their entry. I have enough trouble writing headlines that do not bust, without attempting to decorate this compact basement area with dozens of little boxes. And I take it that readers of *The Times* are grown-up and literate chaps and chaps who can write their own lists without the kiddie's aid of little tables. What you do, if you want to play, is send me your selection of the ten greatest British, French, German, Italian and Spanish writers of all time. Five lists, 150 names in all. If Brits can actually think of the names of ten Spanish or German authors who are not historians or philosophers.

The next thing that happened was that I was asked for my lists. By return telex, in order to help *Life* compile its little boxes. This caused a certain amount of Lit Crit angst and thumb-sucking. But just for example, I give you my German list: Goethe, Schiller, Heine, Thomas Mann, Lessing (not Doris), Kleist, Rilke, Kafka, Hermann Broch (on the strength of one novel that I have yet to finish. *Atlas Leopold*), and Holderlin. For the Spanish list I had to cheat by putting in the unknown author of *El Cid*. I am not telling you about my British list, except to say that I include Gibbon as a creative writer, even though he was a historian, and Dr Johnson, even though his best book was written by somebody else. I defy you to get in two Brontë sisters, though you ought to try.

I predict that the British list of French writers will include old names like Froissart, Villon and Ronsard, not even considered on the French list, because of the English school curriculum. I predict that Byron will get a higher rating on continental lists than British. I predict that Shakespeare will win the Greatest in Europe Championship by a longish head from Dante and Cervantes. And I predict that I shall regret the whole damn exercise before the year is much older.

# Prayers and pistols at the great Sikh temple

Amritsar The Golden Temple in Amritsar, the most holy shrine of the Sikh religion, has become an armed camp. At one entrance a well-built warrior stretches in a chair, nursing an old but lovingly polished twelve-bore shotgun. At doorways around the temple buildings, men with dense turbans, bristling beards and bare legs carelessly handle Lee Enfield 303 rifles. Enthusiastic young men lean nonchalantly on sterling sub-machine guns, or SLRs.

The militant leaders at the temple, of whom the most prominent is Sant Jarnail Bhindranwale, sport .45 calibre revolvers or Browning 9mm automatic pistols - bandoliers of ammunition around their necks.

What happens if the government tries to enter the temple to arrest the alleged terrorists hiding inside? "We shall," says Sant Bhindranwale, smiling, "make them chew iron lentils."

others reinforce staircases vulnerable to infantry. Brick strongpoints with rifle loopholes have appeared among the domes and kiosks of the front entrance of the temple.

It is no surprise to find that the Sikhs are armed. Even at the best of times Sikh warriors who have dedicated their lives to the militant support of their religion - are found in Sikh temples. Usually, though, they are armed simply with cutlasses and spears, under Gobind Singh - after Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, the man who gave Sikhism its most distinctive characteristics - laid down that all Sikhs must always be armed.

The Sikhs, too, are used to violent resistance and to martyrdom. Early leaders were executed by the Moguls and Pathans. The Sikh kingdom built by Maharajah Ranjit Singh was the last area of independent India to fall under British rule.

But the embattlement of the Golden Temple also represents a strain of paranoia in the Sikh psyche. Some regret that at the time of independence when the Muslims got a separate state, the Sikhs did not get an independent "Khalistan". Since then, Sikh activists have feared that the distinctive Sikh

identity would be swallowed in an ocean of Hinduism.

Harmandir Singh Sandhu, a student zealot, an ardent follower of Sant Bhindranwale and general secretary of the recently banned Sikh Student Federation, ticked off the four fears. Sikh students were being seduced by Marxism. They were being led astray by "luxurious living" - including the use of drugs, some were turning to Brahmanism and some were being tempted into the evil of Nirankari, a Sikh heresy which rejects the precepts of the gurus.

Curiously, the residents of the richest agricultural state in the Union, who provide the Indian armed forces with a disproportionate number of their best soldiers and who are on average better-off than the rest of the population, believe that they are victims of discrimination. The sharing of Punjab's river water with other states, for example, was regarded as an attempt to deprive Punjab farmers of their most vital asset. The Sikh agitation which began 19 months ago has accordingly become more and more bitter. Every move by the government to put down terrorist activities

has been seen by the Sikhs as a deliberate move against Sikhs rather than just against rebels.

The Golden Temple has been the focal point of both the peaceful agitation and extremist action. Many fugitives from the police are sheltered inside it. When a deputy inspector-general of police was shot on the terrace outside the temple, his assailant was seen to run back into its sanctuary.

There are therefore those who say the temple should be raided by the forces of law and order. If the government does raid the temple, reaction will be explosive through-out Punjab, in areas where there are Sikhs - in the rest of India, such as Delhi, and even abroad in London, Melbourne and Toronto. The tension in Amritsar is such that tourists are staying away in droves. Some embassies are advising their nationals not to visit Punjab at all. One lone group of Americans visited the temple last week. They were ecstatic about the atmosphere of the holy place, and visited it at night under a full moon. "But," said Mr Flave Peters from Arkansas, "those men with the guns... it was eerie."

Michael Hamlyn

محرم الحرام





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## CLEANING UP POLICE POWERS

The Commons committee stage of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill ended yesterday. It is claimed the number of sittings the standing committee devoted to the Bill has not been matched before. The Bill deserved the honour. It redefines and adjusts the law in respect of powers that are required by the police for the prevention and investigation of crime, purposes most people grant a high priority. But the exercise of these powers renders people, who may or may not be criminal, vulnerable to invasion of their liberty and abuse of their rights. Avoidance of excessive powers and safeguards against the abuse of powers are no less important than the grant of the powers themselves. A balance has to be struck and it must permeate the whole structure from first principle to last detail.

The balance is not simply a matter of getting the drafting right where the powers of police or the rights of suspects are defined. In the daily exercise of their duties police officers are likely to be more influenced by practice and custom than attentive to the letter of the statute. To that extent "clean" policing is a function of supervision and management, which underlines the importance of the many passages in the Bill which introduce recording or reporting procedures and implicate senior police officers in the decisions to be taken.

For the same reason the statutory codes of conduct, the promise - still undated - of systematic tape recording of interviews with suspects at police stations; the more independent character of the arrangements for dealing with complaints against the police; and - outside the Bill - the new prosecution service for which legislation is intended next session: all these contribute to the essential balance that is being struck between the effective confrontation of crime and protection of the citizen against abuse at the hands of the state's sanctioned instrument of civil force. The present state of the law is inexcusably incoherent and dubious for so sensitive an area. The Bill as it now stands marks a large improvement, but there is still detailed work to be done.

The practice of detaining suspects for questioning is put on a statutory basis for the first time. Twenty-four hours at a police station before charge or release is put forward as the normal limit, 96 hours in exceptional cases. An important concession was made in committee. The review before a magistrate's court with the detainee present and represented, which the Bill stipulates before 36 hours have elapsed, will have to be repeated before the 96 hour limit is reached. Two hearings instead of one. The minister would not however agree to bring the first hearing forward from 36 to 24 hours, which, as measuring the normal interval for detention without charge, would be the appropriate point at which to implicate the court. His reasons were administrative: it would overload the magistracy and prematurely interrupt police investigation.

Those reasons are substantial but not compelling when set against the dangers of abuse attendant on detention for questioning without access to a court. In some cases of serious crime the police will not be able to bring their investigation to the point of charge or release within 24 hours of arrest. They should be enabled to continue, but not without the warrant of a court.

Another contentious detail concerns what the Bill calls intimate searches, that is the examination of the mouth and genital and anal passages. These are attested passages of occasional criminal concealment for drugs, weapons and other evidence of crime. Last session's Bill made provision for examination of these orifices, preferably by a doctor but otherwise by a police officer of the same sex as the suspect, both for weapons and for evidence of crime. The resurrected Bill confines the purpose of the search to articles that might be used to cause physical injury to the suspect or others.

The only Conservative revolt at the committee was by those who opposed that limitation of the power of intimate search. The minister conceded that there is a price to be paid for it in terms of undetected criminal concealment, but argued that the wider power was not compatible

with the requirement that the examination be normally done by a doctor, since the necessary cooperation of doctors would not be available in the absence of consent, save for the removal of potential instruments of injury or death; yet a practice of this form of search by police officers might cause inadvertent injury to suspects, especially if they resisted, and would raise in the public mind a prejudice against police treatment of suspects which might come to affect more important duties than that one.

The minister is right. People are not yet so inured to crime and the fight against it that they will comfortably contemplate licensing the police for that sort of handling. But the Home Secretary should follow his logic through and, at some small further cost to convenience, remove all exceptions to the rule that this is a job for a doctor.

Then there are journalists. They come in where the Bill confers new general powers of search under warrant for evidence of serious crime on premises where no suspicion falls on the occupier. This was the chief battleground of last session's Bill. Clergy, lawyers, doctors, other "caring professions" combined to protest the sanctity of the personal records made in the performance of their respective duties, and won exemption. Representatives of the press, suspecting they might not qualify as a caring profession, hastened to make out that protection from forced disclosure of their confidences was no less a matter of public interest. The Home Secretary obligingly wrote into his Bill a handsome exemption for "journalistic material".

No sooner was the expression down in cold print than the watchdogs of the press began to shiver at a new set of implications. Here was an expression that the courts might feel called upon to define. The journalist might lose his safe and sufficient status as common man - tribune of the people, one with the people. Definition implies classification, classification implies privilege, privilege loss of privilege, restriction licensing, licensing silencing. The long-suffering Home Secretary is even now considering how next to satisfy these nervous clients.

## THE NIT-PICKERS' REVENGE

With the publication of the Finance Bill yesterday, a little of the gilt begins to peel off the Chancellor's gingerbread. Budget Day is a time for overall impressions, and Mr Nigel Lawson managed - to the delight of his backbenchers - to present an image of economic vigour and reforming zeal. This triumph carried him confidently through his post-Budget cross-examination by the Treasury committee of MPs on Wednesday.

But the successive stages of the Finance Bill are a time for detail - for the nit-pickers' revenge. Such a lengthy Finance Bill provides plenty of scope. There are, for a start, wholesale changes in corporation tax to be discussed. The abolition of capital allowances, and the lowering of corporation tax, were well-received by industry (rather better received, it seems, than the Government expected).

While the corporation tax changes are at least clear and strategically sensible, more general questions mark hang over the Chancellor's changes in personal tax. Naturally, the abolition of tax relief on life assurance premiums will attract some parliamentary trouble -

but life assurance companies have by now swallowed their bitter pill, and there are no major new shocks for them in the Finance Bill. (The bill does however make it clear that the new rules are being drawn very tightly, so any change in a pre-Budget policy will tip it out of the tax-protected category). There will be a parliamentary row, with more justification, over the extension of the composite rate of income tax on interest from building societies to banks: it is a huge restriction of freedom of choice for non-taxpayers.

And this concern touches on the most obvious question about the Budget. While seeking to restore industrial incentives, encourage wider share ownership and begin the painful task of rationalizing income tax, does it do enough for society's have-nots, the unemployed, the disabled, the elderly, the poor? Half this question cannot be answered, because this year the Government is leaving all announcements on social security benefits until June. But it is fairly clear that the Government has chosen to help those on low incomes by raising tax thresholds, not benefits, more than

inflation - and raised some doubts by doing so.

The Chancellor has angered pressure groups for the retired by concentrating his tax cuts on the single and married tax allowances, leaving age allowances untouched in real terms. This is justifiable: it enabled him to give most help to families with children, stuck in the worst of Britain's poverty traps. In hard cash, however, an increase in allowances gives most to the high-paid, which is why an increase in child benefit, which goes also to families outside the tax net, is widely supposed to be the most cost-effective way of relieving poverty. Mr Lawson's answer to that, delivered to the Treasury committee this week, was that child benefit is an indiscriminate weapon too: only 15 per cent of the unemployed, for example, have children of child benefit age.

This remains a critical area of government policy where its strategy is far from clear. A small token of humanity was given yesterday; along with the Finance Bill came the announcement that the extension of VAT to building alterations will not apply to conversions for the disabled. The bigger issues of social policy remain unresolved.

## THIS GAME IS NOT THE ONLY THING

Questions of international sport have become complicated and difficult. The English Rugby Football Union meeting this morning to decide whether to accept an invitation to tour South Africa should find itself discussing problems of politics and morality and peering at future consequences in fields other than rugby. It is to be hoped that at the end it will decide not to send a team.

To rehearse some familiar arguments, external opponents of apartheid have found in a sports boycott their most effective weapon. The refusal of international sportsmen to play games with white South Africans has awakened their conscience as nothing else has. It has also produced changes: there is now a degree of integration in most sports, including the upper echelons of rugby. This is taken by some to be an argument in favour of relaxing boycotts and allowing tours.

The fact is, however, that apartheid remains; the South African system is still uniquely abhorrent in that it gives the force of law to prejudice; it is

based on the theory that some men may be adjudged less than full citizens because of the colour of their skin. This is insulting to the world.

Informed political commentators will tell the English Rugby Football Union that changes are taking place in South Africa now and more must take place in future if violent chaos is to be avoided. The question is whether the present tentative moves are to lead to a real and acceptable sharing of power or whether they are merely a redrawing of the boundaries of apartheid. This is a time when international pressure should be maintained and not relaxed.

There will be some at the English Rugby Football Union meeting who will argue that all this is not their business; they merely wish to kick a ball around with a lot of friendly people. But the truth is that they are in the business of politics, willy-nilly. One of the consequences of a tour will be that Mr Piet Botha, the Prime Minister, will claim, implicitly or explicitly, that this is a sign that the world approves of his efforts at reform. The

further implication is that he need do no more.

Another consequence will be that Britain's international relations in other sports are likely to be disrupted if a rugby tour takes place. In particular, African nations might stay away from the Olympic Games later this year and attempt to exclude England from the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh next year. These threats are illogical - rugby is not an Olympic sport and the Commonwealth Games involves entirely different people - but they are real.

It needs to be emphasized that whether to tour is a matter for the English Rugby Football Union to decide. The Government has advised against the tour, as it was bound to do under the Gleneagles agreement, but there can be no question of any compulsion. British citizens are free to behave abroad in a way that embarrasses others, black or white, as they wish. All that can be asked is that this morning's meeting remains aware that larger issues are involved. The rugby pitch is not an island, entire of itself.

## Time for breaking the EEC mould?

From Mr Alfred Latham-Koenig  
Sir, In your editorial of March 22 ("A drama, but not a crisis") you write "Mrs Thatcher must hang on until she gets a solution that meets Britain's essential interest." Yes, but not until the cracks in the European construction widen to the point of threatening the whole edifice. She must above all modify her negotiating style, which profoundly irritates and antagonizes her EEC partners.

True, the French also pursue their national interests with undivided vigour. But they do it with greater elegance and less stridency and cleverly dress those interests, whenever they can, in *communautaire* clothes. They also appear to show a greater sense of European history and to pay more attention to their partners' views and idiosyncrasies. What Mrs Thatcher lacks above all is having at her side, instead of a competent and subservient tax lawyer in her own mould, a Foreign Minister more in the mould of Lord Carrington who, during his tenure at the Foreign Office, earned the respect of his European colleagues for his statesmanship and breadth of vision.

Yours faithfully,  
ALFRED LATHAM-KOENIG,  
11 Bigwood Road,  
Hamstead Garden Suburb, NW11.  
March 27.

## Hayward as 'showcase'

From the Secretary of the Royal Academy

Sir, I would not wish in any way to belittle the remarkable achievements of the Hayward Gallery under Arts Council management, or to question the valid points made by Mr Bryan Robertson (March 27); but he surely goes too far in claiming that it is the "main official international gallery exhibition centre for London, and as such our only equivalent to the Grand Palais in Paris for shows arranged with foreign governments."

The record speaks for itself: over the past two years alone the Royal Academy has put on exhibitions at Burlington House in cooperation with Japan, the People's Republic of China, the United States of America, France, Nigeria, Spain, the Netherlands and Italy.

In some cases these were "official" exhibitions illustrating the culture of a particular country. In others, the Royal Academy mounted them in partnership with national institutions (the Prado, the National Gallery of Art (Washington), the Grand Palais, etc.).

Of course, Burlington House is not an "official" centre, in that it receives no revenue grant from the Arts Council or any other public source. But it has enjoyed the advantage of government indemnity for each of these exhibitions, and in a number of cases it has worked in amicable partnership with the Arts Council.

No, the real case for retaining the Hayward and the Serpentine Gallery under Arts Council management would seem to lie rather in their unfailing and unrivalled support for contemporary art in this country.

I am, Sir, yours etc,  
PIERS RODGERS, Secretary,  
The Royal Academy of Arts,  
Piccadilly, W1.  
March 27.

## Posts at La Scala

From the Artistic Director of La Scala, Milan

Sir, I take the liberty of writing to you in order to give first-hand and clear information about a report referring to La Scala (March 23).

The report suggests that the appointments of both Mr Abbado and Mr Muti were consequent on the support of two political parties represented on the board of administrators of La Scala.

The level of such a decision and of such musicians is totally above parties. This is proved by the unanimous vote which the board of administrators of La Scala gave to both appointments.

Regards,  
CESARE MAZZONIS,  
Artistic Director,  
Teatro Scala,  
Milan,  
Italy.  
March 27.

## Local radio in France

From Mr Brian Lewis

Sir, Professor Day is naive in writing (March 22) that local radio in France carries no advertising and is supported by voluntary contributions.

It is true that the law of 1982, which created the High Authority authorized it to license private radio stations, of which there may eventually be 1,000 in France. It is also true that it prohibits them from advertising and that they are financed by supporters' associations, but the contributions to the associations, far from being voluntary, are for services rendered and every local station has its rate card.

To be brief on a subject with the

constant variations efficient advertising agencies develop, there are three main forms of advertising:

1. Broadcasting a well known commercial jingle and, instead of the company name, an announcer will say "To learn how to purchase furniture on the easiest possible terms telephone..." Or announcers tellously repeating "The time by my watch is now..." Or by a service to the public with local shopping tips.

2. By selling programme time to local political parties, or authorities or banks, by commercial houses sponsoring programmes which they think will please a particular public, and it is of course open house for record companies.

3. Preparing programmes in the form of cassettes for products with blank space for the comments of the local critics, which are read from accompanying texts.

The High Authority is perfectly aware of what is going on, but to stop it requires proof in the form of declarations from the statutory body which supervises advertising standards, which does not have the funds to undertake the task.

There is, however, one station which is kept in comfort by voluntary subscriptions - Frequency Gay - here in the heart of Paris.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN LEWIS,  
39 Avenue Victor-Hugo,  
75116 Paris.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Keeping defence enterprise in trim

From Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton

Sir, Many of the arguments, and consequent proposals, for reorganizing the management of defence, published by the Defence Secretary in his Open Government Document 84/03, will be welcome to those of us who have struggled to make the present system work to the best advantage of our national security.

But Field Marshal Lord Carver's letter (March 21) and his explicit warnings of where these proposals go too far deserve warm support.

I would emphasize in particular the danger in supposing, as the Defence Secretary's paper appears to do, that there is some natural division between policy and management or between the so-called "support functions" of personnel and logistics on the one hand and operational capability on the other.

For the raising, training, equipping and deployment of the front line of all three Services might appear to the inexperienced to be a "management" function, but their subsequent operational posture depends entirely on how well, or ill, that function is performed.

It demands, as Lord Carver rightly points out, single Service staffs adequate in numbers, experience and skill to support and advise the professional head of each Service if he is to be capable of meeting the centrally stated requirements of Government defence policy.

This raises the closely related point concerning the function of the Vice-Chiefs of Staff, whose posts the Defence Secretary expects to lapse. These three men are by common

consent the hardest worked members of their Service boards and are responsible for drawing together the whole wide span of what I described above as the apparent management function. It is illusory to suppose that their work will somehow disappear, for it is neither self-generated nor composed of "each other's washing".

Even if it were thought expedient, for the sake of some apparent tidiness, to abolish these posts, officers of similar seniority and experience would have to be appointed to the staff of the CDS.

It is lower down the organizational tree that important savings could be made by a reorganization on the general lines proposed. Some posts at the two-star level (uniformed and civilian), with many more at the one-star and "red colonel" level, should at once come to hand, especially in the staffs dealing with plans, commitments and operational requirements.

The whole defence enterprise is, as Lord Carver says, a highly sensitive balancing act, and it is to be earnestly hoped that the Defence Secretary will not allow the balance to be falsely tipped by paper solutions which may look neat as an organism, but take insufficient account of the real difficulty of successfully running an £18bn-a-year business employing half-a-million people, on which the very lives and the very way of life of our fifty-five million people in the end depend.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
HILL-NORTON,  
House of Lords.

### Miss Tisdall's case

From Dr H. G. ApSimon

Sir, Miss Tisdall has done two things. She has taken a copy of a document belonging to her employers, the content of which her employers wished to keep secret, and given it to someone else; and she has caused the publication of material classified as secret.

The first offence is one known to almost every employer. For there are civil remedies. (Though, in the case of an isolated offence, even the punishment of dismissal might be seriously contested as excessive at a hearing before an industrial tribunal.)

The second offence is one that, if committed, was certainly also committed by *The Guardian*. The fact that the editor of *The Guardian* has not been prosecuted for it is an admission, tacit but compelling, that the material was not in fact secret and so should never have been classified as such. (Had Miss Tisdall been prosecuted solely for "publication" of the document that *The Guardian* did not publish, that would have been a different story. But, by all the accounts that I have seen, she was not.)

This raises the question (and I ask it not rhetorically but genuinely seeking the answer): does the mere fact that someone with appropriate authority classifies a document as secret automatically make that document in fact a secret one? Surely a necessary condition is that he acted reasonably in so purporting to classify it?

In other fields judges have held that some putative decisions by officials, whether they be policemen or secretaries of state, have been unreasonable and so, not being made in the proper exercise of an authority, have been without authority.

If the same test of reasonableness

does not apply to the classification of state documents then some interesting, and alarming, consequences are apparent.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.  
H. G. APSIMON,  
Badgers' Den,  
Old Basing Road,  
Frimley, Surrey.  
March 25.

From Mr Jonathan Sayeed, MP for Bristol East (Conservative)

Sir, Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act is again under attack, but its critics must recognize the damage caused to the quality of government decision-making by unauthorized disclosure of confidential information.

Civil servants are in a position of trust, have access to sensitive information by virtue of their work, and are employed to serve a democratically elected government.

It is an arrogant denial of the process of democracy for civil servants to don the mantle of arbiter of the public good. If they feel so strongly about a matter they have the opportunity to transfer, leave the service or even stand for Parliament.

But there is another deeply disturbing implication of this betrayal of trust. No government will fully investigate the many options inherent in any policy decision unless it is confident that its deliberations will remain private. The result of "leaking" is that documents have narrower circulation and fewer people are consulted. "Leaking" is an obstacle to better informed government and thus leads to poorer government.

I wonder whether those who "well all" realize the damage their disclosures cause their fellow citizens.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN SAYEED,  
House of Commons,  
March 26.

### In pursuit of truth

From the Reverend Michael Burgess, SSC

Sir, Sweeping generalisations are usually way off target, immoderate and lacking in substantiated evidence. That said, can there be any fear of contradiction when I say that journalists as a breed are the biggest crowd of self-righteous hypocrites in contemporary society?

Quite apart from the Olympian tone with which they attempt to drape their every pronouncement, even on matters where they possess the merest fraction of a half-truth, their attitude toward the Christian Church in general has become boringly hysterical. What truth do they think to pursue?

The Poulter affair has brought forth the latest outburst of indignant journalistic wind. Even you, Sir,

write that "The Church would be very unwise to try to put that point across by making a public example of invidiously selected and identifiable individuals" (leading article, March 23).

Pray, Sir, is this not the daily behaviour of these self-appointed "guardians of freedom" toward those luckless individuals who have the misfortune to fall into their sight?

It'll become the profit-seeking media, largely involved with titillating trivia and character assassination, to lay down the law about the weightier matter of fair play. Rather, it is a matter of "Journalist, heal thyself!"

Yours truly,  
MICHAEL BURGESS,  
Church of the Annunciation,  
Bryanston Street, W1.  
March 23.

## Qualified ban on heavy lorries

From Mr Dave Wetzel  
Sir, The Chairman of Safeway recently criticized in your columns (March 24) our proposals for a night and weekend heavy lorry ban as being bad for both the environment and economy of London.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Originally the GLC set up the Wood inquiry to investigate a complete 24-hour ban of all heavy lorries in London. As a result of the Wood inquiry team's report the GLC is proposing to ban heavy lorries at night and weekends.

We are also considering many important exemptions from the ban: Major roads with no housing; Saturday mornings; the new quiet heavy lorry or heavy lorries fitted with a hush kit; those industries and firms which would be seriously disrupted by the ban.

The effect of this ban will be:

1. The 50 per cent of all lorry journeys which have no business in London but use us as a through route at night and weekends will be excluded.
2. Many heavy lorries which have to use London will be modified to become more quiet.
3. Many heavy lorries will stick to major roads with no housing instead of taking short cuts through our local residential streets.
4. All of London's roads will witness a dramatic reduction in heavy lorry movements at night and at weekends.

I believe this reasonable policy will be welcomed by all Londoners and will only be opposed by the narrow selfish interests of big business.

Yours for socialism,  
DAVE WETZEL, Chairman,  
Transport Committee,  
Greater London Council,  
Members' Lobby,  
The County Hall, SE1.  
March 28.

### Bishop's move

From the Bishop of Norwich

Sir, I walked into the City of London today, leaving Liverpool Street station at 12.52pm. Taking the longer route, I passed the Temple where, amidst a mass of daftoids, the great magnolia was just breaking into bloom.

I continued along Victoria Embankment, giving a gracious and thankful nod across the water to Mrs. Livingstone for providing us all with a noiseless, fussless, business day of health and exercise, and I wheeled into the Palace of Westminster at 1.37pm.

I usually allow 35 minutes to Tube, and 40 minutes by bus, down to door: so 45 minutes by foot to show a party of Norfolk schoolchildren round this bastion of democracy is a small price to pay.

Yours etc,  
MAURICE NORVICH,  
House of Lords,  
March 28.

### VAT on building

From Mr Oliver Barratt

Sir, Lord Rosebery and Mr George Ferguson (March 20) correctly assess the cumulatively calamitous consequences for the nation's building stock of the imposition of VAT on alterations, as is already the case for repairs. Treasury mandarins, however, are impervious to such arguments and will see them as special pleading by the owner of an historic house and by an architect, just as surely as if they had complained about the taxing of their fish and chips.

While the taxing of work on existing buildings is unfortunate, it is the distortion of doing this when both demolition and new building are zero-rated that is grossly unfair and will do far more damage to the environment. If any building work is taxed, then all should be and no one could claim that a demand for the equal imposition of VAT on demolition work and on all new building is special pleading.

There are often good reasons for demolishing a building and erecting a new one, rather than repairing and adapting an existing building, such decisions should be made on the basis of real criteria and not influenced by distorted taxation. It is completely illogical that new buildings should not be similarly taxed and, if the question of employment in the construction industry is raised, the labour-intensive nature of most repair and alteration work might justify a distortion in the reverse direction.

As far as historic buildings are concerned, most of the problems caused by the imposition of VAT could be alleviated by allowing owners of listed buildings to recover the VAT on repairs (not alterations) certified by an architect or quantity surveyor. Also charities, which would include churches and the National Trusts, should be allowed to recover VAT, but there are reasons for doing this which have nothing to do with buildings.

Yours faithfully,  
OLIVER BARRATT, Secretary,  
The Cockburn Association (The Edinburgh Civic Trust),  
15 North Bank Street,  
Edinburgh.  
March 21.

### Pint-size increase

From Mr Roy Chapman

Sir, I note that the brewery which owns my favourite local has responded to the extra 2p per pint duty on beer (a) by sounding off with predictable fury about declining sales, threat to the working man's drink, body-blow from the EEC, etc; (b) by putting its beer up 3p.

No doubt the neighbourhood chippie will be similarly confused come May 1.

Yours faithfully,  
ROY CHAPMAN,  
63 Bevern Square, SW5.  
March 19.







# THE ARTS

Irving Wardle reviews the RSC's Stratford opening of *Henry V*

## The history man

When Stratford last tackled this play, in Terry Hands' 1975 version, the main task was to dispel the shadow of *The Wars of the Roses* and reestablish Henry as a hero in his own right.

The whole emphasis of that production was on Alan Howard's growth from a reformed wastrel to a conquering monarch, with Agincourt counting less as a victory over a foreign enemy than a victory over himself.

In Adrian Noble's production, which opens the new Stratford season, the centre is by no means so clearly defined. If it lies anywhere, it is in the figure of Ian McDiarmid's Chorus: a wry commentator in timeless costume who remains on stage throughout, reflecting every nuance of shift of emotion with which modern audiences view this discordant work.

Mr McDiarmid opens with a standard rhetorical flourish, but when he reaches the last line, "Kindly to judge our play", his arms go out in a gesture of invitation asking us to share responsibility for the show.

From that moment he becomes an intimate confidant, jogging our fancy, snatching at the stage's limitations and - crucially - turning deadly serious when he mentions the sacred name of Agincourt and its even bloodier aftermath in the succeeding reign.

It is a bewitchingly varied and witty

performance, but its main importance is structural. It invites the spectator not only to share the task of imagination, but also to acknowledge complicity in the play's nationalistic prejudices. Given our recent history, there is a strong case for saying that *Henry V* is still about ourselves.

The general style of the production is in key with Mr Noble's other Stratford work: copious use of atmospheric music (by Howard Blake, with much reliance on harp arpeggios and unaccompanied folk song), and a denuded stage. The early scenes are played down-stage in front of a traverse curtain, which is whisked off to disclose the black cavern of the impending French battlefields.

Bob Crowley's scheme does not always work out in detail. Alice and the French Princess have to make their first entrance engulfed in the smoke of Harfleur, and the use of a tall rectangular door - symbolizing the gate of war - leads the army straight off the battlefield.

But there are more occasions when it operates brilliantly, such as the sight of the wretched English crouched under sacking in the pouring rain; or

on the night before Agincourt, when the chorus prowls over the squalid down-stage area shining a torch over Henry's followers, while in the farthest depths of the stage the French are seen looting in golden luxury, languidly passing the night in games of chess before their supposedly certain victory.

The Stratford programme contains two parallel essays on "Hero-King" and "Scourge of God", both of which relate to Kenneth Branagh's performance. At his first appearance, you can well imagine Mr Branagh as Hal: a quiet, cold figure watching and listening while giving nothing away, and generally avoiding the centre of the stage. He first shows his hand in the tennis-ball scene, beginning with a mild answer to the French insult, and then exploding into paroxysms of psychotic rage.

The effect is characteristic of this actor, and it is well matched to Henry's habit of playing the sympathetic private man and then arising into violent public action. In Mr Branagh's case, there is no clear-cut division between the two.

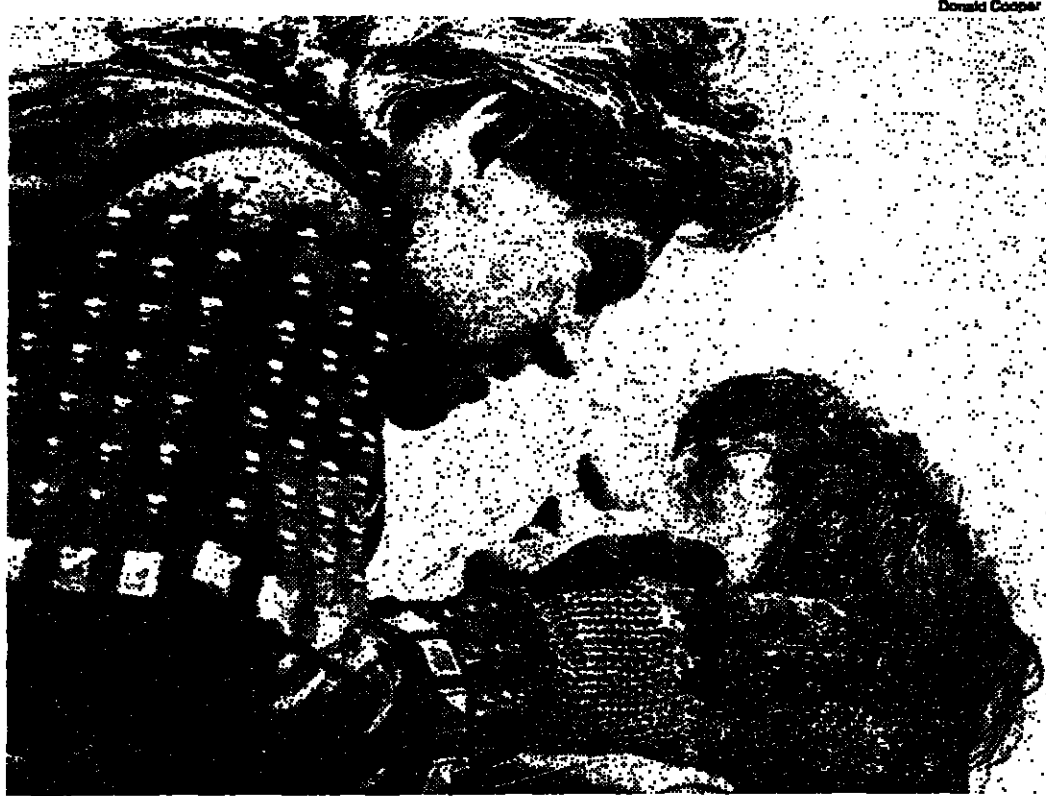
Not content with sentencing the English conspirators to death, he huris

himself on Stephen Simms' Scroop for an act of personal betrayal. And after the massacre of the boys, he similarly assaults the French herald. The performance throughout presents a poised, confident mask through which panic and savagery periodically break out.

This can take the form of physical courage, as in a veriginous fall from a ladder, into the arms of his followers. More often he comes over as a haunted man, pursued simultaneously by personal and dynastic history. His prayer before Agincourt is a gabbled, terrified act of bribery, fully in the spirit of his guilty father.

Likewise, memories of Eastcheap come home to roost at his last encounter with Bardolph (John Rogan) who kneels fixing the king with a mute, terrifying stare as he is slowly garrotted by Brian Blessed's hulking Exeter. This is by far the most painful moment of the evening, and the passage where Mr Branagh comes closest to public collapse.

I have said enough to indicate the intelligence of this reading. What it lacks is magnitude. Vocally, Mr Branagh is underpowered for the part, and repeatedly his citations are simply high-pitched instead of thrilling. He has not mastered the craft of individual word emphasis, and his couplets do not ring.



Public violence: Kenneth Branagh's Henry turns on Lord Scroop (Stephen Simms)

## Paying penance the American way

"You do realize," said the lady from San Francisco, "that what you're seeing in this festival is a tiny fragment of the American theatre." What we were seeing, as usual at Louisville, was a programme of nine plays chosen from the annual intake of some 2,000 scripts. The selection is then shown over three days to an audience of international guests and Kentucky regulars, whose trust in the Actors' Theatre is such that they even subscribe to its untried material.

You can always be sure of finding good design and good performances at Louisville; finding good new plays is the uncertain factor. It can strain the patience to see the lights going up on yet another homely mid-West interior, in which the family shares its problems over a venerable table with frequent recourse to the battered refrigerator. You do not see that kind of banqueting, as in New York. Domestic politics remain the predominant issue of this year's programme, but its quality is much improved. There has also been a conscious effort by the management to coax their home-loving writers out of the nest.

Two of the main house productions were large-scale commissioned pieces on public themes: Emily Mann's *Execution of Justice* and Ken Jenkins's *Over the Crosses* - dealing respectively with the 1978 San Francisco City Hall murders, and last year's shooting down of the Korean airliner.

The methods and intentions of these pieces were in precise opposition. Miss Mann, viewing the deaths of the liberal mayor and a homosexual supervisor as a clear instance of redneck bigotry, presents the story through a strict reconstruction of the case against their assassin, a former employee of the Police Department, Daniel White.

Mr Jenkins, having no clear ideas about the ill-fated flight except that the episode was too important to ignore, devises a free-for-all in which every party has its say while the question of staging political events is hotly debated by a group of American actors.

Jon Jory's production presents the doomed flight itself in the Kabuki manner, with masked passengers and a model aircraft brought down with a decapitating sword blow. Visually beautiful, such effects also create a framework for debate; but all you glean from Mr Jenkins is that the more important the event, the more impossible it is to dramatize.

On the domestic front, action ranges from a Bronx bar, a Texan mansion, and the slaughtering room of a poultry shop, besides the obligatory farmhouse living room. Of the studio plays, my favourite is P. J. Barry's *The Ocelot Bridge*.

*Chib*, which covers a decade in the lives of eight sisters by means of their Friday-night bridge parties. First seen posing for a local newspaper and introducing themselves with cascades of beautifully orchestrated giggles, they wind up facing death, disablement, and madness.

Underlying this play - like other Louisville products - is a standard American device, in this case the party that uncovers painful truths from the past, and, again in company with other pieces, it leaves the pattern implicit. The sisters may be Roman Catholics who have stoically closed their minds to sexual frustration and betrayal. But instead of the obligatory scene where all of this comes out, you are left to deduce it from their style of gossip, regression to childhood games, and obedience to the censorious eldest sister (Sylvia Cassell), who still wields parental authority. Set around two card tables with a dummy player always on the move, Robert Spera's production flows with comic invention.

The same themes crop up, well fleshed-out, in Horton Foote's *Courship*, a delicate 1914 study of two gently reared Texas girls immured in the home while the sounds and rumours of fecundity and shotgun marriage drift in from the world outside. They recur in Lee Blessing's *Independence*, an all-girls family reunion where madness moves into the centre of the home in the person of a deranged mother (the formidable Miss Cassell again).

Partly as a result of seeing the plays in rapid succession, you get the impression of a group mind at work; and the hints of expiation contained in these quiet domestic plays come into sharper prominence elsewhere in the festival. On the studio stage they take the form of an "apache dance", as John Patrick Shanley accurately subtitled *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, a bar-room encounter between two self-condemned social outcasts, who begin with tremendous exchanges of abuse and physical violence before coming together for the night.

Irving Wardle

## Docteur Miracle/Margot la Rouge

We have a rather gruesome way of celebrating composers' anniversaries - by digging skeletons out of their cupboards. I doubt, however, that anything more embarrassing is going to come rattling from the Delius closet this year than his one-act opera *Margot la Rouge*.

## Opera

Park Lane Opera staged the work on Wednesday night for the first time in this country, following the broadcast revival of two years ago, but now with Delius's own rediscovered orchestration.

Written in 1901 to 1902 for a competition run by the publisher Sonzogno, the piece is a crude story of corruption and jealousy, set in a low dive in Montmartre. It does not sound quite Delius's thing, but in fact it works extraordinarily well; whether because it is melodramatic despite being Delius, or Delius despite being melodramatic, I am not sure.

The essence of longing distilled there is associated in the opera with Margot's innocent past as she remembers it, and as it is remembered by Thibault, who encounters her by chance in her present state as a whore and persuades her that they can regain the happiness of former times.

But of course it cannot be. The villains of Margot's past immediately past stop the pair before they can leave Thibault is killed by an assassin, L'Artiste, and he in turn is stabbed by Margot.

Robert Carsen's production is spot-on, providing a vehicle for characterful performances by Anne Mason as Margot, Maria Moll as her well-chested rival Lili Béguin, Kim Begley as Thibault and Rodney Macann as L'Artiste.

Mr Carsen and the conductor Clive Timms also find amusing things to do before the interval with Lecoq's *Docteur Miracle*, another competition entry and, not altogether deservedly, a more successful one.

Paul Griffiths

## Yentl (PG)

Leicester Square Theatre

## El Sur (The South) (U)

Academy Two

## By Design (18)

Gate Bloomsbury

## Reflections (15)

Chelsea Cinema

Isaac Bashevis Singer's *Yentl*. The *Yeshiva Boy* is a small story, and Barbara Streisand's *Yentl* is a big film; and in that distinction lie the problems. The perfect scale for Singer's bald, elliptical tale would have been the modest productions of the old-time Yiddish cinema, made by directors like Joseph Green and Edgar G. Ulmer.

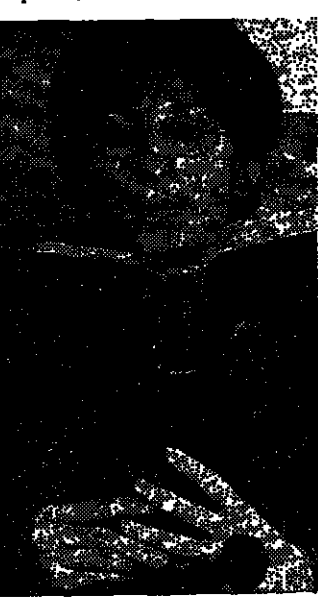
But the economics of Hollywood and the politics of stardom can no longer accommodate the small film. The anecdote has to be encased in two hours of spectacle and song and the character must be accommodated to the status and personality of the star.

This is not to doubt Barbara Streisand's commitment to the project (she has, it seems, wanted to film the story for 15 years, and dedicates it to her father) or her undoubted achievement in her first film as director. Filming on location in Czechoslovakia, with Roy Walker as production designer and Judy Mootnick as costume designer, she has lovingly recreated the look of Russian-Polish Jewry at the turn of the century.

*Yentl*, the daughter of a rabbi, yearns for learning but in her society and time a woman is prohibited from studying the sacred lore. When her father dies, she disguises herself as a man, changes her name to Anshel, and enrolls in a yeshiva in Lublin. She excels in scholarship; but "once you say 'A', you must say 'B'", and her

transvestism involves her in some strange and near-tragic adventures, as she falls in love with a fellow-student, and marries the girl whose parents have rejected him.

To make a film out of it, Ms Streisand and her fellow writer Jack Rosenthal, have been obliged to inflate Singer's hints and ellipses into rather dogged descriptive action: a heavy comedy scene where Anshel and the man she secretly loves are obliged to share a bed; a more teasingly erotic one when the other students try to force Anshel to bathe with them. Instead of Singer's wonderfully enigmatic treatment of the wedding night ("Hadas in her innocence was unaware that things were not quite as they should have been") the film develops a lengthy expository sequence.



The getting of wisdom: Barbara Streisand as Yentl

As the script progresses the filmmakers abandon Singer more and more to develop their own story.

The inflation of the story does not, in fact, much broaden or deepen *Yentl*'s own character. This gives Ms Streisand, as director-star, her major problem, since she is on the screen and in close-up for a very large part of the time. She looks charming and amusing in male clothing, but the range demanded by *Yentl*-Anshel is small, and the actress is eventually reduced to monotonous repetition of the same repertoire of appealing looks and crooked or quivering upper lip.

It would be impossible to have a Streisand film in which she did not sing. Here music - an impressive score by Michel Legrand with lyrics by Alan and Marilyn Bergman - is used as a continuing internal monologue.

## Cinema

## Too much of a good thing

The notion is in principle excellent and the performance is fine, yet even this seems an excessive ornament on a small story already more than fully explored by the images and dialogue.

Though Singer's own ending has a nice sense of enigma, the finale of the film is an intelligent and imaginative speculation. It provides a well-calculated dramatic pay-off to a first feature whose nerve and verve, whatever its other shortcomings, are undeniable.

*El Sur* is Victor Erice's first film since *The Spirit of the Beehive* 10 years ago. It has the same elusive quality of that earlier dealing less in direct relationships than in lapses in communication and the distances that separate people. The elusiveness is heightened here, since the film appears to be only the first part of a cycle: it ends in the air, with every promise of a sequel to follow.

The leading character is again a young girl, whom we watch growing to adolescence (she is successively and beautifully played by Sonsoles Aranguren and Iciar Bollain). Her father is a doctor whom she idolizes in her childhood, not least because of the mystery his origins in "The South" give him.

Her fascination with this magical South is only increased by a visit by her grandmother and her father's old nanny, a delectable, loving old peasant chatterbox. In time, as she herself matures, she sees her father deteriorate, succumbing to drink and disappointment. As the film ends she is making her own way to the South, intent on solving some of the mysteries of her father's life and death.

Erice confirms his mastery of mood, ambivalence, and the art of evoking the mysteries rather than the sharp lines of character. His portrait of the young girl is as fascinating as the *Beehive* children. In his film, though, even while submitting to his storytelling spells, there is an inescapable inclination to wonder what, if anything, it is about.

Claude Jutra's *By Design*, from Canada, at least makes its intentions very clear - once past the first reels, which are rather self-conscious about their "sophistication" in establishing the ambience of a modest design house. The business is run by two attractive women, played by Patty Duke Astin and Sara Botsford, who prove extremely deft and witty players once they, too, get over the bad patch at the beginning.

They live together in a homosexual relationship which is perfectly contented, except

for their keen desire for a child. The regular adoption agency is unhelpful in the matter. The only solution seems to be to resort to regular biological processes, and the tragedy follows the story of their search for a suitable agent for the impregnation.

By a series of accidents, both manage to become pregnant, though the screenplay (by Jutra, with Joe Weisfeld and David Eames) manages to give the ending an unexpected twist. It is a simple, kindly film, which manages to combine robust and sexy comedy with a generous and intelligent approach to the basic human problems it assaults.

It is 12 years since the British director Kevin Billington made his last film, *The Light at the Edge of the World*, and 16 since he made his well-received first feature film, *Interlude*. Unhappily, *Reflections*, from the Irish novelist John Banville's story *The Newcomer*, has not provided him with a very suitable subject for his return to features.

It is an anecdote about a rather priggish historian who rents a lodge on a crumbling Irish estate, and becomes puzzlingly involved with the crumbling family that inhabits it. He leaves with the melancholy realization that he has not learnt a thing about them, and since the audience shares his bewilderment the whole enterprise is rather frustrating.

It is a film of excessive pretension to sensibility and atmosphere, which means that there is a great deal of walking around, lingering looks of indecipherable meaning, and endless pauses between lines, which are not so great that they merit time for consideration.

David Robinson

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## Television

## Home and away

The dialogue stumbled rather, but *Missing from Home*, BBC 1's six-part thriller series which began last night, was sufficiently intriguing to merit watching next time around.

As played by Judy Loe, Allison Reynolds - whose husband went to the office as usual but didn't return - seemed more inconvenient than distraught. She was particularly testy with the Special Branch and the police, which didn't seem to be likely in the circumstances, nor did she look the kind of woman who would be on such a steep learning curve at such a moment.

She appeared to know little about her husband's business, or about the family's financial affairs. He, it appeared, had access to classified information, was something of a gambler, and was apparently not all that popular. Certainly the man who shared his office seemed indifferent to him, and a neighbour shied away when questioned.

No doubt we shall learn more about him shortly, although some action will be needed to keep it going. We shall also see a lot more of Miss Loe in this story by Roger Marshall, and that faintly formidable mien may become more compatible

with the situation as her troubles increase.

BBC 2's *Forty Minutes*, produced by John Fennell, was a heartening programme. It is good to know that the longhorn, the Gloucester Old Spot pig, and the Shetland and Portland sheep are alive and fairly well and with a chance of returning to fashion.

They owe it to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, a band of people who restore one's faith in the enduring eccentricity of the British which could imply, in this case, a certain long-sightedness.

Animal Antiques told how these far-from-everyday countryfolk had doggedly continued to breed sheep and cattle which the more commercially minded had decided were *outré*. It could turn out that they have been canny.

The longhorn is fetching prices which suggest it is farthest along the road to rehabilitation. And the genes of these rare animals are now commending themselves to those who are apprehensive about the shape of things to come.

Dennis Hackett

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## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Montagu and Greenwell prepare for the big bang

The engagement between Samuel Montagu, the Midlands' house merchant bank, and W Greenwell, the most influential gilt-edged stockbroker, was formally announced yesterday. Samuel Montagu has taken the prescribed 29.9 per cent of Greenwell and will move to 50 per cent when Stock Exchange rules permit. Meanwhile, the partners, best symbolized by Mr Stafford Gadd who has brought peace, goodwill and profit to Montagu, and Mr Gordon Pepper, the seer of Greenwell and gilts, believe they have a marriage of true minds.

Intercourse will be limited during the first phase, which will end with the Stock Exchange's big bang: the coming of negotiated brokers' commissions in the second half of next year. Thereafter, the two see themselves as effectively one essentially British Market maker in fixed-interest stocks and a block trader in equities. They are thus anticipating the Americanization of trading methods in London, and beyond that, the coming as corporate members of the London Stock Exchange of leading American and Japanese investment houses. Greenwell lacks the "trading mentality", which Montagu will bring (together with capital and an extensive overseas network) it will contribute the research capability and the distribution system.

For the clearing Banks this is mainly a matter of the interpretation of American law which sets out in largely untested statutes investment areas in which they, and stockbrokers, may operate. A survey has been commissioned. Bankers, it is fair to say, are coming round the view that trading large blocks of shares is where the real money is to be made.

Sir Timothy Bevan, chairman of Barclays, said on Wednesday that if his bank had put all the money in gilts last year, profits would have been just £169m less, for minimal risk and regular income, than Barclays made from traditional banking. Add an international dealing network and making money from mere banking would become a secondary business. Barclays, De Zoete & Bevan and Wedd Durlacher Mordant is clearly set to become a substantial force.

April 9 is an important day: international dealerships start to trade in overseas securities for negotiated, rather than traditional fixed commissions. On that day also, the cost of buying and gilts will drop by between 10 and 20 per cent. That alone could wipe between £10m and £15m from the income of the larger gilt-broking firms. Greenwell, among others, are not letting the grass die under their feet.

## Making hay while ASC prevaricates

The worst fears expressed here yesterday about the stand-off position toward deferred taxation taken by the upper echelon of accountants were duly confirmed after the stock market had made hay in bank shares. National Westminster leaped 17p., Barclays 15p., Lloyds 13p., and Midland a more modest 8p. If the auditors had decided that bank balance sheets and profit and loss accounts would avoid the new, harsh realities of deferred taxation on the banks' leasing business, then it made sense to push up the shares if only to take a quick profit later in the day.

Despite tremendous professional and even public interest in the subject, focused on the clearing banks because of their provided deferred taxation liabilities of up to £1.5 billion, and a crying need for a common approach, all the Accounting Standards Committee could muster was a thinly worded press release which, in effect, allows companies and their auditors to do whatever they want as long as the accounts still show a "true and fair view". The standard setters have once again hidden behind their traditional stance that they do not interpret accounting standards nor are they prepared to legislate to accommodate the changes. The only crumb of encouragement is that the situation is under review.

Until the review is completed and materializes as an accounting standard, which could be months away, the ASC has merely reminded companies that SSAP 15, the standard on deferred taxation, and SSAP 6, the standard on extraordinary items remain in force.

Had it stopped there, the scope for manipulation would have been reduced. Most companies would then have been hard pressed to do anything but write back, as extraordinary item debits, deferred taxation liabilities which they had not provided for. The ASC's press release, however, adds: "There may be instances where companies feel that applying SSAP 15 and SSAP 6 does not enable their accounts to give a true and fair view".

Not only does all this open the door for companies to do as they will, it leaves boards of directors in the curious position of preparing their accounts in accordance not with accounting standards but with ASC press releases. As there is already a disparity of view among the big eight accountancy firms on how the problem should be resolved, there is little hope of consistency. The ASC was set up in an attempt to bring some order to the chaotic variety of accounting practices used by companies; it now seems to be encouraging the return to the bad old ways.

## US deficit a record - and still growing

Like the Empire State building, the US trade deficit has to be admired for its size. At \$10.1 billion, the February figure, the worst ever so far, compares with a February 1983 out-turn of \$3.6 billion. Over the last 12 months the deficit totalled \$80 billion; if you annualize the last quarter's figure, you come up with around \$105 billion. The deterioration looks to be accelerating, and Mr Martin Feldstein's forecast yesterday that the trade deficit could exceed \$100 billion in 1985 might come true sooner than he thinks.

Mr Feldstein head of the US Council of Economic Advisors, added the caveat that a falling dollar would improve the trade figures.

Traders in US bonds were however more concerned with the current debt auction. The seven-year note auction went well selling at average yields of 12.41 per cent, and dealers, who reportedly bought the lion's share, discerned some retail interest.

US bond holders are probably weary of deficit talk, and their attention is focused more on how the deficit will be financed. A merchandise trade deficit of a national \$100 billion in 1984 would come out at perhaps \$80 billion on current account, net of invisibles. This estimate compares with 1982 and 1983 current deficits of \$11 billion and \$40 billion respectively. With flight capital from the Third World increasingly blocked by IMF-imposed currency restrictions, the burden of financing the US deficit in election year is set to fall increasingly on the Japanese and the West Germans, now running cumulative and annualized payments surpluses of some \$30 billion.

How these two tighten the political economic screw via the bond markets by insisting on improved lending terms will become clearer later in the run-up to the US November elections. But as the Bank of England's Quarterly Bulletin reveals, the Americans cannot count on Opec surpluses to help them out this time around. True, the Opec countries' current account position improved during the second half of 1983 to a \$6 billion surplus (1983 deficit \$9 billion) but the switch out of the dollar by Opec countries continued. In the fourth quarter of 1983, Opec countries sold \$1.8 billion of US bonds, with the bulk of their invested surpluses going into the IMF. This move certainly helped the developing countries whose IMF borrowing now equals their bank borrowings, but the US authorities must view the switch with chagrin.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### North Sea oil bonus

North Sea oil output is running at the rate of more than £2m-worth every hour, according to estimates today.

And the Government may still be underestimating the amount of revenue it will get from North Sea oil this year.

The claim was made by the Royal Bank of Scotland, which publishes a monthly index of production from the North Sea.

The Budget forecast of revenues worth £10.2 billion in the coming year seems "cautious rather than optimistic", according to bank analysts. The true figure could be "nearer £11 billion".

Production in February hit a new record for the fourth successive month, with an average daily output of 2.55 million barrels, a nearly 14 per cent rise on February last year.

Up to 90 oil fields could be developed in British waters over the next 20 years involving an investment of £50 to £60 billion, says John Jennings, managing director of shell UK exploration and production, said in Glasgow.

The Italian Tito Campanella, 13,340 tons, posted overdue with a 24-man crew in Biscay in January, was the first ship in nearly two years to be posted at Lloyds as "missing".

## US bank suspends loans to Argentina

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US Export Import Bank has abruptly suspended new loans and credit guarantees to Argentina as concern grows that Buenos Aires will refuse to meet interest payments on its \$43 billion debt, and that other debtor nations will follow suit.

At the same time, it was learned that President Reagan had personally intervened in the negotiations between Argentina and a crisis team at the US Treasury.

Mr Reagan is reported to have expressed his concern over the stalled negotiations and to have asked for a special report on Argentina's bargaining position on its large outstanding debt - \$2.5 billion (\$2.6 billion) of which is owed to US banks.

Meanwhile, US Treasury officials said that although the talks continued, they were not confident that Argentina would meet a crucial weekend deadline for repayment of about \$2.5 billion in overdue interest payments.

Officials said a "good-faith payment" of from \$300 to \$800m by tomorrow would be enough to avert a ruling by US regulatory authorities that the loans were non-performing and should therefore be classified as losses against the earnings of US banks.

## Lotus 'will bar gates' to Revenue

By Jonathan Clare

Group Lotus, the Norfolk-based maker of prestige sports cars, will bar its gates on Monday morning to three special investigators of the Inland Revenue who have been examining its books.

The move, decided on by Mr Wickens, the group's new chairman, is the prelude to legal action in the High Court if an appeal to the Inland Revenue Commissioners against protective tax assessments totalling \$85m fails. Mr Wickens said yesterday that he had lost patience with the Inland Revenue over the protective assessments. They were made part of the investigation into the missing millions from the DeLorean failed car venture in Northern Ireland.

Mr Wickens said yesterday that the decision had been taken on Wednesday because the investigation had badly hit Lotus' new car sales in the US.

"We have given them access to all our books and papers and they said it would take six weeks", he said. "They have been sitting there looking glum and sump for 14 weeks."

He added that if Lotus loses the appeal to the Inland Revenue Commissioners, he would go to the High Court to get Lotus' books but "we will oppose it".

Mr Wickens said that protective assessments were misunderstood in the US. "The DeLorean case is big news there and they always refer in the last paragraph of a story to a \$140m tax assessment on Lotus", he added that if any DeLorean money was missing "this company has not had that. Mr Wickens said this had cost Lotus a lot of sales."

## Journalist faces SEC inquiry

From Nick Gilbert, New York

The Wall Street Journal yesterday reported one of its senior journalists, Mr R. Foster Winans, is under investigation by the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

The commission - more used to probing insider dealings by corporate executives - is investigating allegations that Mr Winans leaked the contents of articles ahead of publication. A number of share dealers are alleged to have made illicit profits.

Mr Winans left the paper yesterday. His lawyer refused to say whether Mr Winans had gained financially or otherwise from the alleged leaks.

He said: "I have instructed my attorney that I wish to continue to cooperate fully with the commission."

He told ministers at the meeting in Uruguay of the Inter-American Development Bank that his country would not meet the deadline because it did not wish to deplete its small amount of foreign reserves estimated at \$1 billion.

These statements coupled with the fact that Argentina had earlier failed to pay \$33.5m in principle and interest on loans to public sector enterprises and private banks were due on February 29, prompted the US Exim Bank to cut off all new funds.

An Exim spokesman said yesterday the agency would continue to withhold funds from Argentina while it reviewed the ongoing discussions the Latin government is holding with the IMF, the Reagan Administration, private banks and other foreign governments.

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## COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● **ABACO INVESTMENTS** (formerly Greenoat Properties): Half-year to Dec. 31, 1983. Turnover £787,000 (£1.22m). Loss for period £67,000, against loss of £64,000 last time. Board remains hopeful of an overall profit for full year.

● **RAMUS HOLDINGS** (quoted on U.S.M.): Half-year to Jan. 2, 1984. Turnover £10.89m (£8.7m). Pretax profit £236,000 (£241,000).

● **K C A DRILLING GROUP**: Results for 1983. Turnover £38.93m (£39.11m). Pretax profit £6.71m (£7.01m). Total dividend 3p (3.75p) a share.

● **MACFARLANE GROUP** (LANSMAN): Results for 1983. Turnover £34.1m (£31.81m). Pretax profit £2.32m (£2.15m). Total dividend raised from an adjusted 3.52p to 3.87p a share.

● **MORAY FIRTH MALTINGS** (quoted on U.S.M.): Results for 1983. Turnover £31.77m (£26.22m). Pretax profit £1.97m (£1.48m). Total dividend 6p (2.8p) a share.

● **FAIRVIEW ESTATES**: Half-year to Dec. 31, 1983. Turnover £19.56m (£17.68m). Pretax profit £3.02m (£3.11m). Interim dividend 1.6p (1.46p). Board views future with continued confidence.

● **CASTLEFIELD (KLANG) RUBBER ESTATE**: Half-year to Dec. 31, 1983. Turnover £2.9m (£1.97m). Pretax profit £1.45m (£844,000).

● **W. TYZACK, SONS & TURNER**: Half-year to Jan. 28, 1984. Turnover £3.02m (£2.4m). Pretax profit of £65,000, against a loss of £286,000. No interim payment (same).

● **SCOTTISH HERITABLE TRUST**: Results for 1983. Turnover £20.6m (£23.64). Pretax profit £1.1m (£338,000). Total dividend 2.1p (2p). Current market value of building land, properties and gravel reserves included in accounts as stock-in-trade, together with current value of listed investments, exceeds book value by over £3m.

● **ARLAN ELECTRICAL** has changed its accounting date from June 30 to March 31, resulting in a nine-month transitional accounting period. July 1, 1983 to March 31, 1984. Accounts expected to be despatched in or about July 1984.

## Frances Williams talks to six signatories to a 1981 attack on government policies

## The economic mirage – by 'rebel' professors



From left: Professors James Meade, Marcus Miller, Robert Neild, Sir Bryan Hopkin and Wynne Godley

Three years ago today 364 university economists, the bulk of the academic profession, put their names to a highly critical statement on the Government's economic policies. These policies would lead not to recovery but to a deepening of the slump, they argued.

The round robin was initiated by the Cambridge University professors Frank Hahn and Robert Neild, who had been profoundly shocked by the severity of Sir Geoffrey Howe's Budget earlier in the month, at a time of rising unemployment.

Today ministers claim that far from exacerbating recession, the 1981 Budget marked the turning point for recovery. By renewing the struggle against inflation and paving the way for

interest rates to fall, the Budget laid the foundations for sustained growth, they have said.

This explanation of events is not shared, however, by six signatories of the original statement contacted this week by *The Times*.

The policies that provoked the statement have essentially been eschewed since 1981. Fiscal policy relaxed a bit and, most importantly, the Government took more notice of the exchange rate.

In addition, world conditions have improved with the American recovery and, of course, the destocking associated with the drastic drop in output in 1981 was bound to come to an end.

The growth we are experiencing is not enough to have much impact on unemployment, and it is not clear whether even this rate of growth will be sustained.

But the reduction in inflation that has occurred has been bought at a smaller price so far (in terms of unemployment) than I would have expected in 1981, even though the price has been very heavy.

One reason may be that the severe recession has produced the widespread belief that full employment has gone, if not for ever then for a long time. This is bound to affect the attitudes of trade unions and employers.

Professor Wynne Godley, Cambridge University, director of the Department of Applied Economics. A former senior Treasury economist.

The recovery has been the result of a consumer credit plunge supported by moderate real fiscal expansion by the Government. The credit boom itself has been chiefly due to the easing of hire-purchase controls and the easy availability of mortgages. I expect the credit boom to collapse after this summer (two years on from the abolition of controls) and remove a major agent of expansion in the economy.

The following statement issued on March 30, 1981, was signed by 364 university economists, including 76 present or past professors and the majority of post-war government chief economic advisers:

*'We, who are all present or retired members of the economics staffs of British universities, are convinced that:*

*a) There is no basis in economic theory or supporting evidence for the Government's belief that by deflating demand they will bring inflation permanently under control and thereby induce an automatic recovery in output and employment;*

*b) Present policies will deepen the depression,*

*erode the industrial base of our economy and threaten its social and political stability;*

*c) There are alternative policies; and*

*d) the time has come to reject monetarist policies and consider urgently which alternative offers the best hope of sustained economic recovery.'*

The effect of government policies on inflation has admittedly been bigger than I thought it would be. But, on the other hand, I never believed that the Government really would tolerate this level of unemployment. I was wrong on the political judgment – that people would stand for it.

Professor Sir Bryan Hopkin, chief economic adviser to the Government from 1974 to 1977 and recently retired as Professor of Economics at University College Cardiff.

The statement that present policies would deepen the depression was putting it too strongly. But I stand by the central theme that there is nothing to show that the inflation cure will last any longer than recession itself. If the economy did expand substantially I would expect the inflation problem to return.

The recovery has been mostly a turnaround in stocks from heavy destocking and consumer-led demand. I would not

have expected demand and production to go on falling in 1981, but I did not see how we could have the sort of recovery needed to produce a big fall in unemployment – and I still don't.

I always thought that the Government could get inflation down if it was prepared to create a lot of unemployment and stick to it. The main surprise was not so much the economics as the politics of what happened.

I could not have expected the Government to stand by and let unemployment go to three million – with the pressure from its own backbenchers and elsewhere – and then be so kindly treated by the electorate. Unemployment did not have the disastrous political effect I expected.

Professor James Meade, Nobel prizewinner and a former chief economic adviser to the Government.

I never held the view that

there would never be any recovery, only that the policies would be carried out at immense cost.

I don't think there is any reason to be confident that the reduction in inflation is permanent.

When we said that policies would deepen the depression, perhaps we should have said they would sustain the rise in unemployment. Those who point to the recovery now should wait a little to see if it is sustained.

I never believed that alternatives would be easy, only that they should be tried in order to avoid the immense costs of government policies.

I remain of the view I held in 1981 – that the Government would not induce a recovery by its policies. It was a possible argument for the Government to say that the alternative – restraining wages – was difficult, but not for the Government to say that their policies would induce automatic recovery.

Professor Marcus Miller, Warwick University, a specialist in macro-economic policy and a member of the Treasury's academic panel

I don't believe there has been a recovery. The economy is growing but the level of gross domestic product remains far below its pre-recession trend path. Real wages have proved more resistant to depression than I imagined they would be in 1981. That has made me more cautious about a big expansion. I don't know how far the economy can recover without more inflation.

The fall in inflation, which was surprisingly swift, has only helped the recovery because government policies are designed that way. If spending plans are made in cash, lower inflation means more real spending. And the fall in inflation and the revival of demand hasn't cut unemployment.

Professor Robert Neild, University of Cambridge and co-sponsor of the statement in 1981

The main point of the 364 was that there was no reason to believe that restrictive fiscal and monetary policies that reduced inflation would induce recovery. The evidence has borne us out. Since we made the statement in March 1981, employment has fallen by about 2 million.

I see no reason to modify my view about how the economy works. The levelling-out in activity has been in large part induced by the government relaxation of controls on consumer credit. That's exactly what happened in earlier post-war stop-go cycles. The American recovery, induced by a budget deficit, has helped us too.

I suspect that if you disentangle the figures the Chancellor's Budget is expansionary. Altogether the Government seems to me to be covert Keynesians, still pretending to be half-hearted monetarists while using Keynesian methods to check the recession.

## Croda 1983 results

	1983 £000	1982 £000
Unaudited		
Turnover	341,128	307,102
Profit before taxation	17,574	15,039
Profit after taxation	9,861	8,432
Extraordinary items less taxation	2,330	1,218
Attributable profit	7,530	7,148
Ordinary dividends (net)	pence	pence
Proposed final dividend (payable 2 July 1984)	4.00	4.00
Making total for the year	7.00	7.00

Copies of Report and Accounts available on and after 28 April 1984 from the Secretary



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### BOXING: EUROPEAN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

# Pearce takes the pauper's path to throne

undoing against knocks from the champion.

It is this very thinking that could reflect his boxing should he be unable to catch Rodriguez with a good blow.

The fact is that Pearce, even though he tries to emulate Marciano and Frazier, does not give much of a monkey's for the heavyweights, knowing that he is really a cruiserweight. As World Boxing No 7 in that division, he sees himself going up against a contender for the champion, for the title, and has no illusions about taking on any of the three world heavyweight champions. Also Pearce will be collecting here in Limoges his biggest pay cheque so far of £19,000, which should see him comfortably off for a year or two.

If tonight he should find that, after four rounds, the hard-jabbed Rodriguez is giving him so difficult to catch with a good blow, he could easily lose motivation in the later stages.

The phrase is "I don't give a monkey's". It has been his biggest defence against life's knocks. So much so that it didn't matter how many people hoped to become the king of Europe that he spent one night like a pauper sleeping rough on two chairs by the Air France check-in at Terminal No 2 at Heathrow the night before he set off for this city.

"I would have been very upset if I did give a monkey's", he said. "I would fear Jewish champions of any weight would have been fit enough mentally to continue on their way with a start like that. But it is just this philosophy that could be his

**From Robin Gregg,  
Los Angeles**

**Rensaldo Nebenhum, the 110 metres hurdles world record holder who gave up his international amateur status to sign a professional football contract with a San Francisco team, hopes to know whether he can compete in the Los Angeles Olympic Games.** Wednesday, his lawyers asked the Chief Judge of the District of New Jersey to instruct two sports organizations to consider his request to qualify for the Games.

The judge has declined to force the Athletic Congress of the United States and the International Amateur Federation, the organizations which govern track and field events internationally, to arbitrate Nebenhum's claim. He is still an amateur in track and field.

## Jones double quick to earn small change

The steeled with which Colin Jones extinguished Afan Braswell on Wednesday night at the Afan Lido, Port Talbot, was such that Jones's manager, Eddie Thomas, never saw the combination left hook and right cross which stretched the slim, brown figure of the Welshman across the centre of the canvas. Thomas, who co-promoted the sell-out bill for Jones's first fight in Wales for nearly three years was still climbing back down to floor level after the bell for the second round had gone.

"I knew I had him the first time I caught him with a left-hand shot. I knew he was hurt because he looked into his eyes and saw the end. The two punches which saw him off felt

Events are likely to move just as fast in the immediate future. Jones hopes for WBC title and a possible \$500,000 meeting with Sugar Ray Leonard. More immediately there is the prospect of a match in Bermuda with Roger Stafford of the United States, the holder of the WBA version of the world welterweight title.

"Colin's in such great shape at the moment," Thomas said after the Brasswell contest, "that it seems a shame to waste all the preparation and all the work he would have liked the fight to go about eight rounds, but I told him to start fast as the other lad was reckoned to be at

his best in the opening rounds. f hadn't reckoned on Colin taking me quite so literally."

How much the richest young boxer in Britain received for his three and a half minutes work has remained a close secret but, taking into account the television rights and the £125,000 that a single figure of £215,000 would not suspect, be all that far off the mark.

This is small change for a man who last year received around £250,000 for two of his three unsuccessful tilts at the world title with Milledin McGorry, the first of which ended on a split decision. Thomas is looking for a date

sometime in late April or early May for the Stafford bout. Beyond that, stand McGroary, who has publicly said he would not welcome another 12 rounds with the Gorseinon welterweight, and Leonard. There's most certainly retirement. "I'd like Colin to end at the end of this year when he's 26," Thomas, who guided Howard Winstone to the world featherweight title in 1968, said.

## Hagler relishes brawn

Las Vegas (Reuter) - Marvin Hagler makes his ninth defence of his undisputed world middleweight championship - which should put him within five wins of Carlos Monzon's record - tonight against Juan Roldan, a two-fisted Argentine brawler with 50 wins in 54 professional fights.

"I don't think he could box even if he tried," Hagler said. "Brains beat

braven every time." I think his one choice is to try and take me out early but I'm ready for that. I've been working hard with my sparring partners. They were thinking of getting a marking pen and writing 'I am not Juan Roldan' across their foreheads so I'd take it a little easier on them."

# A happy birthday for Howarth and New Zealand

Colombo (Reuters) — New Zealand, animated once more by Richard Hadlee, beat Sri Lanka by an innings and 20 runs in the third Test match between the two sides yesterday and won the series 3-0.

Hadlee took three of the six wickets to fall on the fifth and final day of the match, which was a rain-affected match total of 10 for 104, as Sri Lanka crumbled for 142 after being trounced on the first innings.

Bobo, the left-arm spinner, snapped up the other three wickets and Sri Lanka, with Dias prevented by a leg injury, were left all out shortly after lunch having remained yesterday morning on 69 for three.

New Zealand's triumph provided a double celebration for Geoff Hirst, who yesterday in England celebrated his 33rd birthday by lending his country to their first overseas series victory since they beat Australia in 1955, and the rubber at the end of 1969. This success against a Sri Lanka side still seeking their first win after 11 Test matches was the first since the irresistible Hadlee, who took 23 wickets in the series.

Hadlee won the man of the series award, and his second innings success, as the eighteenth time he has been named man of the match in a Test match innings. His 10-wicket match total was the fourth time he has performed the feat in test matches.

Lanka's fate was sealed in the morning session when they could

only score 137 for seven at lunch.  
Hadlee soon accounted for S de Silva, the nightwatchman, Dufresne took the wicket and continued his run of low scores when he was bowled round his legs by Boock for 10.

Ranatunga provided the only note of defiance with exactly 50, his fourth half century in eight test matches, while Hadlee and the Alwis brothers put on 61 for the first wicket; put on 31 for the second. But Hadlee had de Alwis caught by Bracewell at third slip for 10.

At 11.45 lunch, Ranatunga skirted Boock to Wright at mid off and Hadlee scaled victory when he bowled Amaratunge. Dias, the batsman, was unable to last after injuring himself while fielding

NEW LAMARCA: First Innings 289 (S de Silva 105, R J Hadlee 55, P S G Chatterjee 89 not out, R J Hadlee 55, P S G Chatterjee 89 not out)  
NEW LAMARCA: First Innings 459 (A F Field 140, V Jony 82)

Sri Lanka Second Innings  
S Wasekuma c Conner b Hadlee 2  
R M de Silva c Wright b Hadlee 2  
P S G Chatterjee c Wright b Hadlee 2  
R J Hadlee c Wright b Bracewell 2  
A Ranatunga c Wright b Boock 20  
D A Silva c Wright b Boock 15  
L P Mendis b Boock 50  
V Jony c Wright b Boock 10  
R M de Silva c Wright b Hadlee 10  
A F de Alwis c Bracewell b Hadlee 10  
A J G Amarasinghe b Hadlee 10  
R J Hadlee not out 10  
E.D.S. (not injured) 1  
Extras (lb, nb) 10

Total 148

FALL OF FIRST INNING: 1-82, 2-83, 3-142, 4-178, 5-101, 6-105, 7-138, 8-129, 9-340.

BOWLING: Hadlee 16-7-29-5, Chatterjee 3-0-11-1, Ranatunga 3-0-11-1, de Silva 3-0-11-1, 21-5-19-0, Boock 16-2-32-5.

## Test teams for festival

Melbourne (Reuter) - The world's seven Test-playing countries have been invited to compete in a one-day festival here next year, as part of the State of Victoria's 150th anniversary celebrations.

The World Cup holders, India, as well as England, New Zealand, West Indies, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia have all accepted invitations to attend the festival, the

Victorian Cricket Association (VCA) president, Ray Steele, said on Wednesday. The budget had been estimated at £1,850,000. He said the VCA were still working to complete the schedule. The VCA are planning to stage the competition under lights in mid-February.

"We've been negotiating for the last two years and it has taken a bit of organizing," Mr Steele said.

## Jolly passed over again

Kevin Jolly has been left out of England's team for the Thomas Cup, the world team championships, to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from May 7-19.

It is yet another disappointment for the 24-year-old Essex player, following his omission from the England squad for next month's European Championships.

Jolly, who has had several brushes with authority in the past, was one of only three home players to reach the last 16 in the All-England championships at Wembley last week. He said at the time: "I always seem to be banging my head against a brick wall. It's only the thought of making the Thomas Cup team that keeps me going, otherwise I feel like pecking it in and looking for a job."

Ciro Ciniglio, The England team manager, announcing the eight-strong Thomas Cup team, and also the women's squad for the Uber Cup matches, admitted: "It has been one of the most difficult selections to make in my seven years in the job."

His surprise is the omission of Nigel Tier and Duncan Bridge, established doubles partnerships.

The team for the Uber Cup - to be played alongside the Thomas Cup for the first time - includes Nora Perry, who has begun training again after having a baby three months ago.

**MEN:** S. Baddeley, N. Yates, M. Dawson, D. Triggs, S. Butler, A. Glocde, D. Taylor, D. Goss, J. Wicks.

**WOMEN:** N. Perry, J. Webber, G. Galka, N. Blackman, H. Trank, S. Procter, G. Gowers, L. Wicks.

## MOTOR RACING

# Fuel sparks Porsche's move to quit Le Mans

**By John Blunsden**

A Le Mans 24 hours race without the works Porsche team may seem like a grand prize without the world champion, but this is the price the German manufacturer has agreed to pay. The L'Ouest, the race organizers, must pay this year because of the decision by the international motor sports association, the FISA [earlier this month] to alter the endurance racing rules at short notice.

Instead of introducing more stringent fuel consumption regulations this year, FISA are allowing the 1983 consumption levels to be maintained for a further two years. However, if in 1985 the fuel efficiency-based regulations will be abandoned altogether. Instead, the new regulations will be based on relating engine capacity to a scale of minimum weights.

Having spent a lot of time, money and expertise in recent months on developing a new generation of engine management systems which would cater for the anticipated 1984 rules, Porsche are furious that this effort will be wasted. The company now seeks as the most meaningful of all motor racing formulae - one which echoes the requirements of production cars to make the most performance with the efficient use of fuel - is being ruined.

The works Forsythe team, its subsidiaries and its clients have contractual obligations and will be seen at other endurance races this year. But their drivers, who include Derek Bell and Jackie Jacka, are not racing. They will have to be required on Le Mans weekend, June 16-17. Clearly, by withdrawing from the year's most important endurance race, the Forsythe team company is seeking the maximum publicity for their protest, which they are making in what they see as the most effective way.

The controversial decision by the FISA forms part of a package of changes which are being made in an attempt to attract a new variety of cars into the class of racing.

Only if there is a fundamental rethink on the part of the sport's governing body is there likely to be any change of mind by the Forsythe team; and this seems most unlikely.

## TODAYS FIXTURES

## FOOTBALL

**Second Division**  
Shrewsbury Town v Blackburn Rovers

**Third Division**  
Plymouth Argyle v Rotherham United  
Preston North End v Newport County

**Fourth Division**  
**Exeter Town v Swindon Town**

Tranmere Rovers v Northampton Town  
 Wrexham v Stockport County  
 NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: S Liverpool v  
 Marine  
**OTHER SPORT**

**TICKETS:** Public Schools  
Men's Club, West Kensington

(at Goff's Sales, Ring, co Kildare, 2pm and 7.15pm).

1933-34		1934-35		1935-36		1936-37		1937-38		1938-39		1939-40		1940-41		1941-42		1942-43		1943-44		1944-45		1945-46		1946-47		1947-48		1948-49		1949-50		1950-51		1951-52		1952-53		1953-54		1954-55		1955-56		1956-57		1957-58		1958-59		1959-60		1960-61		1961-62		1962-63		1963-64		1964-65		1965-66		1966-67		1967-68		1968-69		1969-70		1970-71		1971-72		1972-73		1973-74		1974-75		1975-76		1976-77		1977-78		1978-79		1979-80		1980-81		1981-82		1982-83		1983-84		1984-85		1985-86		1986-87		1987-88		1988-89		1989-90		1990-91		1991-92		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25		2025-26		2026-27		2027-28		2028-29		2029-30		2030-31		2031-32		2032-33		2033-34		2034-35		2035-36		2036-37		2037-38		2038-39		2039-40		2040-41		2041-42		2042-43		2043-44		2044-45		2045-46		2046-47		2047-48		2048-49		2049-50		2050-51		2051-52		2052-53		2053-54		2054-55		2055-56		2056-57		2057-58		2058-59		2059-60		2060-61		2061-62		2062-63		2063-64		2064-65		2065-66		2066-67		2067-68		2068-69		2069-70		2070-71		2071-72		2072-73		2073-74		2074-75		2075-76		2076-77		2077-78		2078-79		2079-80		2080-81		2081-82		2082-83		2083-84		2084-85		2085-86		2086-87		2087-88		2088-89		2089-90		2090-91		2091-92		2092-93		2093-94		2094-95		2095-96		2096-97		2097-98		2098-99		2099-00		2100-01		2101-02		2102-03		2103-04		2104-05		2105-06		2106-07		2107-08		2108-09		2109-10		2110-11		2111-12		2112-13		2113-14		2114-15		2115-16		2116-17		2117-18		2118-19		2119-20		2120-21		2121-22		2122-23		2123-24		2124-25		2125-26		2126-27		2127-28		2128-29		2129-30		2130-31		2131-32		2132-33		2133-34		2134-35		2135-36		2136-37		2137-38		2138-39		2139-40		2140-41		2141-42		2142-43		2143-44		2144-45		2145-46		2146-47		2147-48		2148-49		2149-50		2150-51		2151-52		2152-53		2153-54		2154-55		2155-56		2156-57		2157-58		2158-59		2159-60		2160-61		2161-62		2162-63		2163-64		2164-65		2165-66		2166-67		2167-68		2168-69		2169-70		2170-71		2171-72		2172-73		2173-74		2174-75		2175-76		2176-77		2177-78		2178-79		2179-80		2180-81		2181-82		2182-83		2183-84		2184-85		2185-86		2186-87		2187-88		2188-89		2189-90		2190-91		2191-92		2192-93		2193-94		2194-95		2195-96		2196-97		2197-98		2198-99		2199-00		2200-01		2201-02		2202-03		2203-04		2204-05		2205-06		2206-07		2207-08		2208-09		2209-10		2210-11		2211-12		2212-13		2213-14		2214-15		2215-16		2216-17		2217-18		2218-19		2219-20		2220-21		2221-22		2222-23		2223-24		2224-25		2225-26		2226-27		2227-28		2228-29		2229-30		2230-31		2231-32		2232-33		2233-34		2234-35		2235-36		2236-37		2237-38		2238-39		2239-40		2240-41		2241-42		2242-43		2243-44		2244-45		2245-46		2246-47		2247-48		2248-49		2249-50		2250-51		2251-52		2252-53		2253-54		2254-55		2255-56		2256-57		2257-58		2258-59		2259-60		2260-61		2261-62		2262-63		2263-64		2264-65		2265-66		2266-67		2267-68		2268-69		2269-70		2270-71		2271-72		2272-73		2273-74		2274-75		2275-76		2276-77		2277-78		2278-79		2279-80		2280-81		2281-82		2282-83		2283-84		2284-85		2285-86		2286-87		2287-88		2288-89		2289-90		2290-91		2291-92		2292-93		2293-94		2294-95		2295-96		2296-97		2297-98		2298-99		2299-00		2300-01		2301-02		2302-03		2303-04		2304-05		2305-06		2306-07		2307-08		2308-09		2309-10		2310-11		2311-12		2312-13		2313-14		2314-15		2315-16		2316-17		2317-18		2318-19		2319-20		2320-21		2321-22		2322-23		2323-24		2324-25		2325-26		2326-27		2327-28		2328-29		2329-30		2330-31		2331-32		2332-33		2333-34		2334-35		2335-36		2336-37		2337-38		2338-39		2339-40		2340-41		2341-42		2342-43		2343-44		2344-45		2345-46		2346-47		2347-48		2348-49		2349-50		2350-51		2351-52		2352-53		2353-54		2354-55		2355-56		2356-57		2357-58		2358-59		2359-60		2360-61		2361-62		2362-63		2363-64		2364-65		2365-66		2366-67		2367-68		2368-69		2369-70		2370-71		2371-72		2372-73		2373-74		2374-75		2375-76		2376-77		2377-78		2378-79		2379-80		2380-81		2381-82		2382-83		2383-84		2384-85		2385-86		2386-87		2387-88		2388-89		2389-90		2390-91		2391-92		2392-93		2393-94		2394-95		2395-96		2396-97		2397-98		2398-99		2399-00		2400-01		2401-02		2402-03		2403-04		2404-05		2405-06		2406-07		2407-08		2408-09		2409-10		2410-11		2411-12		2412-13		2413-14		2414-15		2415-16		2416-17		2417-18		2418-19		2419-20		2420-21		2421-22		2422-23		2423-24		2424-25		2425-26		2426-27		2427-28		2428-29		2429-30		2430-31		2431-32		2432-33		2433-34		2434-35		2435-36		2436-37		2437-38		2438-39		2439-40		2440-41		2441-42		2442-43		2443-44		2444-45		2445-46		2446-47		2447-48		2448-49		2449-50		2450-51		2451-52		2452-53		2453-54		2454-55		2455-56		2456-57		2457-58		2458-59		2459-60		2460-61		2461-62		2462-63		2463-64		2464-65		2465-66		2466-67		2467-68		2468-69		2469-70		2470-71		2471-72		2472-73		2473-74		2474-75		2475-76		2476-77		2477-78		2478-79		2479-80		2480-81		2481-82		2482-83		2483-84		2484-85		2485-86		2486-87		2487-88		2488-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# RACING: SURPRISE RIDING ENGAGEMENT FOR IRISH NATIONAL HOPE

## Cheers can make most of belated opportunity

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Cheers (nap) can strengthen his claim to be regarded as the best English-trained four-year-old hurdler by winning the Liverpool Hurdle at Aintree today.

If Cheers is successful the result will be some compensation for his trainer, Michael Dickinson, and owner, Rod Gunner, for their disappointment at Cheltenham, where the horse was pulled out of the Triumph Hurdle.

Before Cheltenham, Cheers had won his only race, a humble affair at Market Resen. Since then, he has won two similar races at Fakenham and Kelso. On no occasion has he given concrete proof that he is capable of winning a race of this nature, but he has shown that he is brim full of promise. Dickinson has maintained all along that he has a high regard for the colt, who had good form on the flat in France last summer, and now I expect Cheers to give positive backing to his trainer's opinion.

The best form of his opponents is represented by Son of a Gunner. Star of Scotland, Afzal who finished fifth, sixth and seventh respectively, behind the Irish challengers in the Triumph Hurdle.

Lettoch (2.25) could be another winner for Dickinson but Bregawn will need to pull up his socks if he is to beat Drumlagan (3.45).

Lettoch has Straight Accord annual course specialist King Of Country to beat in the Holiday Inn International Handicap Steeplechase. This season, Straight Accord has raced only at Windsor, where he is unbeaten, so he should not be troubled by the sharp Midway track, yet Lettoch who was still in a chance in the Sun Alliance Steeplechase at Cheltenham when he stumbled and fell on landing over the second last fence.

The Perrier Joust Champagne Cup was designed as a consolation prize for Gold up horses and it has succeeded in attracting three of those who ran in the blue riband of steeplechasing at Cheltenham, Drumlagan (third), Bregawn (sixth) and Royal Breeze (eighth). In the good old days I would

have expected Bregawn to win but until he shows he can be trusted again he must be overlooked in favour of Drumlagan.

Noddy's Ryde, my selection for the Sporting Life Weekender Novices Steeplechase was one of Cheltenham's heroes even though he was beaten. His epic duel with Bobsline in the Challenge Trophy was unquestionably one of the highlights of the National Hunt Festival. There is no horse with the calibre of Bobsline among his opposition today and it is not difficult to envisage Noddy's Ryde leading all the way.

Bregawn would be an immensely popular winner of the Monksfield Novices Hurdle as he is trained by Bob Champion, who rode Aldaniti to victory in the Grand National three years ago after winning a personal fight against cancer. Recently that remarkable story reached an even wider audience when the film *Champions* went on general release.

Bregawn had good form in the Autumn, he has been rested during the winter and kept specifically fresh for the moment that the ground is good again, and that is precisely what it is at Liverpool. If he runs up to her form when runner-up to Catch Phrase at Cheltenham she will be hard to beat.

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## Amateur is booked for Eliogarty

Eliogarty has drifted in the betting to 14-1 following the announcement that the 1983 Cheltenham Festival winner will be ridden in tomorrow's Scrambled Grand National by Donal Hassett, (Michael Seely writes).

A 24-year-old dairy farmer from Clare, Mr Hassett is no relation to Eliogarty, who has been the subject of a £25m gamble for the big race. So the chances of him winning the Scrambled Grand National are slim. But John Francome and John O'Neill with Eliogarty have proved groundless.

"Eliogarty has always been ridden by a good jockey and I have every confidence in Donal's ability," said the trainer yesterday. The jockey rides regularly for Hassett in "honest" races in Ireland. He has a number of horses in point-to-point.

Niall Madden's Grand National ride on Jackie was put in jeopardy by a freak accident at Tamworth yesterday. Madden was cantering a horse to the start for the seller when the gelding threw his head back and caught Madden in the face.

Car was immediately withdrawn and Madden returned with blood gushing from a cut under his left eye. Paul Barton, out of action since being badly bruised in a fall at Ludlow last Friday, makes his comeback on the Irish horse, Fort Stalker in the Grand National tomorrow.

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## First Lady of the National

The saying around the stables is that you are more sensitively cared for as a horse than a human under the eagle eye of Jenny Pitman. And she admits it. The senior lady at one famous stable, reflecting on her unique and spectacular impact upon National Hunt racing, observed knowingly: "She sure is hard."

The description would not offend Mrs Pitman. A senior handicapper is said almost to have ruptured a blood vessel recently when on the receiving end of her colourful opinion concerning the weight for one of her horses. In her days as a stable girl for her father, one of the backs came to be known as Sodyer, from her comments on its willfulness.

Yet this formidable woman, who will send out Corbiere perfectly prepared tomorrow to defend his Grand National title, possesses, beneath an exterior as unflinching as Maxim Gorky's grandmother, the gentle disposition of a nurse. In the words of my colleague, Michael Seely, she is "a quite outstanding judge of what a horse can do: a traditional realist, which is a rare quality."

For anyone unfamiliar with the racing world, Mrs Pitman's achievement of becoming the first woman in 144 years to train a National winner and within 12 months take the prized Cheltenham Gold Cup with Burrough Hill Lad, is equivalent to Rachael Flint going out to open against the West Indies with Gattling. In racing, women either muck out the stables or try to look as masculine as the horse in the winner's enclosure.

Tomorrow morning before 7.0 Jenny Pitman will have watched Corky, as the champion is known, and the jockey, Bernard Hanan, have a short workout and will then walk the four-and-a-half-mile course to determine just how each ferocious fence should be approached in the prevailing conditions. Just get my horses and riders round safely, she will say to herself, and I'll give up swearing or smoking... Please God, don't let any of them get hurt.

The astonishing thing about the woman who has conquered a man's world is that she is not all Amazon but an emotional mother and, when it happens, a miserably divorced wife; a girl who adored her father and grew up on a Leicestershire farm under his guidance, knowing just what she must do to match the boys.

She has just published an autobiography, *Glorious Uncertainty*, which in a sense ought never to have been written. Her joint-author, Sue Gibson, and her publishers should have protected her from bearing her soul, from revealing many intimacies of her stricken relationship with the former jockey, Richard Zillmer, which would perhaps have been better unsaid. Yet she is so unflatteringly spontaneous and honest that she probably

will be a success. The book is a sense of loss and a sense of hope. It is a sense of loss for the man who was her first love and a sense of hope for the man who is her second love. It is a sense of loss for the man who was her first love and a sense of hope for the man who is her second love.

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## First Lady of the National

The saying around the stables is that you are more sensitively cared for as a horse than a human under the eagle eye of Jenny Pitman. And she admits it. The senior lady at one famous stable, reflecting on her unique and spectacular impact upon National Hunt racing, observed knowingly: "She sure is hard."

The description would not offend Mrs Pitman. A senior handicapper is said almost to have ruptured a blood vessel recently when on the receiving end of her colourful opinion concerning the weight for one of her horses. In her days as a stable girl for her father, one of the backs came to be known as Sodyer, from her comments on its willfulness.

Yet this formidable woman, who will send out Corbiere perfectly prepared tomorrow to defend his Grand National title, possesses, beneath an exterior as unflinching as Maxim Gorky's grandmother, the gentle disposition of a nurse. In the words of my colleague, Michael Seely, she is "a quite outstanding judge of what a horse can do: a traditional realist, which is a rare quality."

For anyone unfamiliar with the racing world, Mrs Pitman's achievement of becoming the first woman in 144 years to train a National winner and within 12 months take the prized Cheltenham Gold Cup with Burrough Hill Lad, is equivalent to Rachael Flint going out to open against the West Indies with Gattling. In racing, women either muck out the stables or try to look as masculine as the horse in the winner's enclosure.

Tomorrow morning before 7.0 Jenny Pitman will have watched Corky, as the champion is known, and the jockey, Bernard Hanan, have a short workout and will then walk the four-and-a-half-mile course to determine just how each ferocious fence should be approached in the prevailing conditions. Just get my horses and riders round safely, she will say to herself, and I'll give up swearing or smoking... Please God, don't let any of them get hurt.

The astonishing thing about the woman who has conquered a man's world is that she is not all Amazon but an emotional mother and, when it happens, a miserably divorced wife; a girl who adored her father and grew up on a Leicestershire farm under his guidance, knowing just what she must do to match the boys.

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# Constable's power of arrest

**Mohammed v Duke**  
Before Lord Diplock, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Brightman.  
[Speeches delivered March 29]

A constable, in exercising his discretion under section 2(4) of the Criminal Law Act 1967 whether or not to arrest a person whom he had reasonable cause to suspect of having committed an arrestable offence, was entitled to take into consideration as a relevant matter the fact that the suspect would be more likely to tell the truth if he was detained for questioning at a police station than if he were questioned at his own home.

The House of Lords so held, dismissing an appeal by Mrs. Mariam Hoda Mohammed from a decision on July 1983 of the Court of Appeal (Sir John Arnold, President and Mr Justice Taylor) (The Times July 16, 1983; [1983] 3 WLR 598) who allowed an appeal by John Duke, Chief Constable of Hampshire, from an order dated December 20, 1982 by Judge Hampden Inskip, QC, sitting at Portsmouth County Court who awarded the plaintiff £1,000 damages for wrongful arrest and detention.

Mr Alan Tyrrell, QC, and Mr Robin Belben for the plaintiff; Mr J. B. Morlimer, QC, and Mr Robert Beccoff for the chief constable.

LORD DIPLOCK said that the appeal was in a civil action for false imprisonment brought by the plaintiff against the chief constable and arising out of her arrest without warrant at her home on May 8, 1980 by an officer of the Hampshire Constabulary. Detective Constable Offin, and her subsequent detention at Southsea Police Station for about six hours after which time she was released on police bail under section 38(3) of the Magistrates Courts Act 1952 (now section 43(3) of the Magistrates Courts Act 1980). She was later informed by the police that she need not surrender to her bail as no further proceedings would be taken against her.

Her Lordships were not concerned with rights of arrest at common law for it was not disputed that an arrestable offence had been committed, and what Constable Offin was purporting to exercise was the statutory power of arrest without warrant conferred upon him by section 2(4) and (6) of the 1967 Act.

Section 2(4) conferred a right of entry on premises by a constable for the purpose of exercising the power of arrest conferred upon him by section 2(4) which provided: "Where a constable with reasonable cause suspects that an arrestable offence has been committed, he may arrest without warrant anyone whom he has reasonable cause to suspect to be guilty of the offence."

The word "arrest" in section 2 was a term of art. First, it was to be noted that arrest was a continuing act; it started with the arrestee taking a person into his custody, by action or words restraining him from moving anywhere beyond the arrestee's control, and it continued until the person so restrained was either released from custody, or having been detained before, he was taken into custody by a magistrate, or was remanded in custody by the magistrate's judicial act.

In practice, since the creation of organized police forces during the nineteenth century, an arrested person upon being taken into custody by a constable was brought into a police station and detained there until he was either brought before a magistrate or released, whether unconditionally or upon police bail.

In modern conditions any other way of dealing with an arrested person, once he had been taken into custody, would be impracticable, and section 43 of the 1980 Act, providing for grant of bail by the police, was drafted on the assumption that that was what would be done.

Second, it was to be noted that the mere act of taking a person into custody did not constitute an "arrest" unless that person knew, either at the time when he was first taken into custody or as soon thereafter as it was practicable to inform him, upon what charge or on suspicion of what crime he was being arrested.

There was no suggestion that the plaintiff in the present case when she was arrested at her home by Constable Offin, was not fully informed by him of the offence, burglary of jewelry at a house at which she was residing in December 1979, which he suspected her of having committed.

Very shortly after the burglary some of the jewelry had been sold to a jeweller in Portsmouth but it was not until the end of April 1980 that the person who had been recognized by the jeweller as having sold the jewelry was identified by the police. The jeweller's description of the person was that of a woman who resembled that of her former lodger, the plaintiff.

Section 2(4) of the 1967 Act made it a condition precedent to a constable's power lawfully to arrest a person without warrant, that he should have reasonable cause to suspect that person to be guilty of the arrestable offence in respect of which the arrest was made.

Whether he had reasonable cause was a question of fact for the court to determine. The county court judge who tried the action and who heard and saw the witnesses, held that Constable Offin did have reasonable cause for suspecting the plaintiff to be guilty of burglary.

The Court of Appeal examined a transcript or note of the oral evidence and came to the same conclusion. So the condition precedent to Constable Offin's power to take the plaintiff into custody and the power of the other constables at the police station to detain her in custody during the hearing of the action, was fulfilled, and since the action under section 2(4) of the 1967 Act under "without warrant" that left him with an executive discretion whether to arrest her or not.

Since that was an executive discretion conferred by statute upon a public officer, the constable making the arrest, the lawfulness of the way in which he had exercised it in a particular case could not be questioned in any court of law except upon those principles laid down by Lord Greene, Master of the Rolls in *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* ([1948] 1 KB 223).

The *Wednesbury* principle was applicable to determining the lawfulness of the exercise of the statutory discretion of a constable under that section, not only in proceedings for judicial review but also for the purpose of founding a

cause of action at common law for damages for that species of trespass to the person known as false imprisonment.

Since the judge expressly found that Constable Offin in effecting the initial arrest acted in good faith, the first of the *Wednesbury* principles that the discretion must be exercised in good faith was satisfied.

So his exercise of that power by arresting the plaintiff was lawful unless it could be shown to have been "unreasonable" under the *Wednesbury* principle which required that the exercise of the discretion must be shown to be unreasonable in the sense that it was not a decision which a reasonable constable would have made.

In *Hussain v Chong Fook Kam* ([1970] AC 942, 948) Lord Devlin said that suspicion was a state of conjecture or surmise where proof of a fact is lacking and arises at or near the starting point of an investigation of which the obtaining of *prima facie* proof was the end. When such proof had been obtained the police case was complete, it was ready for trial and passed on to its next stage, bringing the suspect before a magistrate's court upon a charge of criminal offence.

The other side of the same coin was when the investigation, although diligently pursued, failed to produce *prima facie* proof which must be in the form of evidence that would be admissible in a court of law. When the police had reached the conclusion that *prima facie* proof of guilt was unlikely to be discovered by further inquiries it was their duty to release the arrested person from custody unconditionally.

In the present case if the plaintiff had in fact committed the offence of which she was suspected, reasonable grounds at the time of her arrest for suspecting her to be guilty, the only kind of admissible evidence probable of her guilt would be likely to be discovered by further inquiries. It was her duty to release the arrested person from custody unconditionally.

Constable Offin thought that she would be more likely to confess, to what he had reasonable cause to believe to be the truth, if she were arrested and taken for questioning to the police station. Thus the reason why he arrested her was that he held the honest opinion that the police inquiries were likely to be more fruitful in clearing up the case if the plaintiff were compelled to go to the police station to be questioned there.

The judge described the reason for the plaintiff's arrest as being to subject her to the greater stress and pressure involved in arrest and deprivation of liberty in the belief that if she was going to confess she was more likely to do so in a state of arrest.

However, he went on to find that the questioning to which the plaintiff was subjected at the police station was conducted with complete propriety and that her solicitor who had been sent for at her request and was present for part of the time made no complaint of the arrest, the nature of the questioning or the length of time for which she was detained.

Thus applying *Wednesbury* principles, the question of law to be decided by their Lordships was whether it was a matter which Constable Offin should have concluded from his consideration of the evidence that there was a greater likelihood (as he believed) that the plaintiff would respond truthfully to questions about her home conversation with knowledge of the burglary, if she were questioned under arrest at the police station, than if, without arresting her, questions were put to her by Constable Offin at her own home.

Her Lordships were divided 3 to 2. The majority, comprising Lord Diplock, Lord Bridge and Lord Brightman, held that Constable Offin was not entitled to arrest the plaintiff at her home. The minority, comprising Lord Keith and Lord Brandon, held that Constable Offin was entitled to arrest the plaintiff at her home.

The compromise which English common and statutory law had evolved for the resolution of the two rival public interests while those first steps were being taken by the police was twofold:

(1) No person could be arrested without warrant (that is without the intervention of a judicial process) unless the constable arresting him had reasonable cause to suspect him to be guilty of an arrestable offence; and the only means by which a person could be compelled against his will to come to or remain in a police station.

(2) A suspect so arrested and detained in custody must be brought before a magistrate's court as soon as practicable, generally within 24 hours, otherwise, save in a serious case, he must be released on bail, or on the purpose of using the period of detention to dispel or confirm reasonable suspicion by questioning the suspect or seeking further evidence with his assistance was a question for the court on Criminal Procedure in England and Wales (Command Paper No 8092) in January 1981 "to be well established as one of the primary purposes of detention upon arrest."

It was in January 1981 that the House of Lords gave its decision in *Lord Keith, Lord Bridge, Lord Brandon and Lord Brightman* agreed.

Solicitors: Lovell Son & Piffled for Mr H. F. E. Mathews, Portsmouth; Theodor Goddard & Co. for Mr R. A. Leyland, Winchester.

# Car Buyer's Guide

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1980 Dark blue, 1000 cc, 1200 cc, stereo, full service history. £7,450.  
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**1981 "X" 500 S.E.I.** Met champagne, leather, alloy wheels, 11,000 miles, 1000 cc, 1200 cc, stereo, full service history. £17,995 or £29,995 per lease.

**MERCEDES 280 GE** station wagon, 1980, 11,000 miles, 1000 cc, 1200 cc, stereo, full service history. £17,995 or £29,995 per lease.

**1981 "X" 500 S.E.I.** Met champagne, leather, alloy wheels, 11,000 miles, 1000 cc, 1200 cc, stereo, full service history. £17,995 or £29,995 per lease.

**280 CE, 1978.** Met. Red. Black Int. Elec. roof, windows. Alloy. 38,000 miles. 1 owner. Superb car. £7,450.

**230, 1977.** Maroon. Beige Int. Elec. roof, windows. Alloy. 38,000 miles. 1 owner. Superb car. £7,450.

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Champaigne beige upholstery, alloy wheels, sunroof, cassette radio/stereo, cruise etc. Full service history.  
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## Police hold 383 in protest violence

Continued from page 1

One of the madmen he had not been able to recruit many of his colleagues to the cause and he preferred to remain anonymous for fear of losing business.

The Bank of England's armoured main doors, normally open to visitors, were locked, and customers were ushered through a side entrance. Special surveillance cameras were mounted on scaffolding on the roof.

Police tried to keep a low profile, moving groups from one place to another and ordering banners and placards to be taken down.

The worst disruption came during the morning peak hour when some demonstrators rode bicycles into the heart of the traffic and others lay in the road.

Most of the arrests were for obstruction, although several people will face criminal damage charges. Those arrested were bailed to appear before Guildhall magistrates.

Inside the Greenhouse, a champagne bar behind the Royal Exchange, bankers and brokers looked through a smoked glass window at demonstrators putting on an impromptu musical performance with flutes and drums.

No single group claimed responsibility for the City demonstration, which was vastly more impressive than a similar protest last October.

The marchers who assembled near the British Museum to march towards County Hall, led at one stage by Mr Neil Kinnock, the Opposition leader, caused fewer problems for police, but more annoyance to motorists, many of whom had spent much of the previous day in traffic jams because of the London Transport employees' strike.

Government policies for local councils were part of a "very, very serious assault on democracy," Mr Neil Kinnock said when he addressed the marchers (Hugh Clayton writes).

That was one of two themes used by speakers at rallies organised by unions in local government to protest at proposals to fix rate ceilings for some Labour councils and abolish others.

The other theme was that the Government's plans had almost no support outside the Conservative Party and that they aroused deep misgivings inside it.



After the storm: A National Guardsman salvaging a lawnmower from the rubble of Bennettsville's shopping centre

## Tornadoes leave 73 dead in Carolina

Fayetteville, North Carolina, (Reuters and AP) - At least 73 people died and hundreds were injured when 24 tornadoes hit North and South Carolina.

Thousands more were made homeless by the storm which brought down shops, wrecked houses, uprooted trees and cut power supplies in many areas on Wednesday night.

In North Carolina, where 59 people are known to have died, Governor James Hunt said he would try to have the eastern part of the state declared a disaster area. After touring devastated areas in a helicopter he told reporters: "It is a horrible, horrible situation. It is beyond belief."

The governors of both Carolinas sent National Guardsmen to keep order and help the rescue efforts. Some storm-damaged areas remained without power yesterday. Officials feared the death toll would rise as rescue crews and National Guardsmen cleared rubble.

The storm first hit South Carolina, where 14 are reported

dead, and picked up speed before it tore through North Carolina.

In Bennettsville, South Carolina, an entire shopping centre was brought down by the storm. Seven people were killed and seven are still missing. Some looting was reported from the town and a curfew was imposed.

The small Carolina town of Red Springs took the full force of the tornadoes. Local police said whole buildings had disappeared.

"Some buildings just aren't there any more. No buildings, no nothing," Mr Luther Higgins, the police chief of Red Springs said.

The devastated areas were overcast and calm yesterday as the storm swept north-east along the coast. High tides whipped by the storm caused flooding in some areas. An even higher tide was expected last night. Only emergency traffic was allowed on the roads.

## Overhaul of defence security

Continued from page 1

In the process of adopting a practice used by the CIA known as "neighbourhood inquiries". That involves an examination of the background of an intelligence official by Whitehall investigating officers in

collaboration with the security services. It is a question about the individual's character and social habits.

Security officials in MI5, in the secret intelligence service, MI6, and the Government Communications Headquarters have already started using the neighbourhood inquiry technique as a part of their positive vetting procedure.

In the past, only character references nominated by the official under investigation were interviewed although something comparable to neighbourhood inquiries has been applied to members of the armed forces. For example those engaged in the operating of the nuclear deterrent.

## Fears of terrorist attacks after tour

Continued from page 1

decided to permit the Queen to follow her own inclination and press ahead, non-British diplomats in the Jordanian capital were convinced that the Abu Nidal gang, which is thought to have fewer than 100 hardcore members, would have to hit back to save face.

British diplomats based in Jordan are known to be worried about their own security. But outside observers believe that, because of the massive security here, further attacks may be aimed at softer British targets in such places as Athens or Rome.

The Queen did not refer publicly to the assassination during her engagements yesterday. But Mr Michael Shea, her press secretary, was questioned repeatedly by British reporters, and disclosed that the Queen had learnt about the killing from the review of British papers teleaxed from London.

Her host, King Hussein, who yesterday drove her to Jordan's most historic site, the ancient sandstone city of Petra, was

himself asked about his views on the attack when he emerged briefly from a Beduin tent.

The King, who was speaking before the Beirut communiqué, looked personally affected by the news of Mr Whitty's death. "It is really most distressing," he said. "It is one of the sad aspects of life we seem to be seeing all too frequently in this part of the world."

The Athens murder came at an embarrassing moment for British diplomats involved in the gruelling Royal schedule, as it once again focused attention on the violent implications of the visit rather than the splendid pageantry, and the enormous boost which it has given to Anglo-Jordanian relations.

Apart from the provocation Britain's fulsome support for Jordan has provided to radical Arab governments angered by the King's reconciliation with the PLO chief, Mr Yasser Arafat, the five-day tour has also had serious repercussions for Anglo-Israeli relations.

## Letter from Moscow

## Russia's magnificent obsession with food

One of the unwise ways to spend an idle five minutes in Moscow (a rare occurrence) is to sit down with the annual edition of *The Times* and read the food column on the back page of Friday's issue.

"English carrots are stable at 8p to 20p per pound," one reads, but Dutch finger carrots are up by about 3p. "A stifled groan: what earthly delights a Dutch finger carrot must offer." Cape grapes are cheaper this week, as are seedless Thompson grapes from Chile. "I don't think I can take much more of this."

"Tesco has leg of lamb on the promotion at 154p per pound." Vague memories filter through the snowbound Moscow landscape of "loss leaders" in supermarkets, a concept unknown in a country where you fight your way to the counter to queue for a ticket to queue for meat some pampered English pets would turn their noses up at.

"Chinese leaves, hothouse tomatoes, sirloin steak, top-side, oven-ready ducklings..." After a while, the list becomes a blur and the prices become irrelevant. Most Muscovites would kill to get their hands on grapes and duckling, let alone pay mere money for them.

Food can become an obsession in Moscow, largely because there is not much to go round, except in tourist hotels. In case you should start feeling sorry for us, no food parcels are necessary: Russians do eat well, if stodgily, are ingenious at tracking food down and generous in the extreme to friends.

For that matter, foreigners have special hard currency shops, called *berizkas* (literally little birch tree, an odd choice of name), and can order consumer goods, including foodstuffs, from firms in Finland, Denmark and West Germany.

The snag is that Soviet customs officials are placing increasingly heavy duties on imports, thereby penalising foreigners twice: in effect, diplomats, journalists and businessmen have to pay ransom to import goods the Soviet system fails to supply.

Berizka stores, moreover, reflect in some curious way the often cumbersome and arbitrary distribution system in the Soviet world outside. The few citizens who get in

products suddenly become *defistsing*, or out of stock, for no apparent reason.

Not long ago it was red wine (any red wine) and cigarettes (any cigarettes). At the moment, beer and tonic water are not to be had for love or money (your correspondent has tried both). The lack of tonic is devastating blow to the small British community.

Russians, however, have been used to erratic distribution and chronic shortages for decades, and from their point of view things have looked up. Muscovites are in any case cushioned by the system of "special orders" through places of employment such as factories and offices, in addition to which the 1982 food programme and the late President Andropov's reforms are beginning to have an effect.

Mr Chernenko remarked in the Kremlin this week that supplies of meat, milk, fruit and vegetables were still unsatisfactory, but bananas, oranges, lemons and even grapefruit do appear at state shops and street kiosks.

Down at the peasant markets, where most Muscovites go for vegetables and salad, not much is on display except cucumbers at 2.50 a kilogram (the average wage is under £200 a month).

Most Russians are waiting happily for the spring, when the collective farms will deliver to the state shops, and the stalls at the peasant market will fill with gold-toothed traders from the south - Georgia, Azerbaijan, the Caucasus and central Asia.

Prices will be high - 1 once paid £12 for a melon - but the money will be found somehow since most Russians complain that the problem is not that their wages are low but that there is nothing to spend them on.

Meanwhile, one of the most popular Moscow shops is tucked away in a side street near Gorky Park. Every week juggernaut lorries pull up with Warsaw mud on their wheels and disgorging pile upon pile of frozen Polish strawberries, beans, peas, plums, carrots, raspberries.

The shop, called *Moro-ka* (snow-flake), trades in roubles, not hard currency, so foreigners and Russians rub shoulders to stock up on vitamins from Poland until the thaw comes and the Russian spring arrives.

Richard Owen

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

Royal engagements  
Princess Anne attends the Mayoral Ball at Chippingham, Wiltshire, 8.30.  
Princess Alexandra attends the Royal Air Force anniversary concert at the Royal Festival Hall, 7.50.

New exhibition  
Paintings and sculptures by Trevor Edwards, City Art Gallery, Headrow, Leeds; Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun and Bank Holidays 10 to 5 (until May 7).

### Exhibitions in progress

The Arts of Japan, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until April 24).  
Apocalypse prints by Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528) and Jean Duvel (1485-1561), Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon (until June 24).  
Cadbury's National Exhibition of Children's Art, City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (until April 7).

Homer's Heroes: Mycenae Greece; Museum and Art Gallery, Charnier Street, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until April 30).

Last chance to see  
Travelling the Herring - displays and photos from the past; Collins College, University of Strathclyde, Richmond St, Glasgow; 10 to 5 (ends today).

Summerhill Artists Exhibition: Falmouth Art Gallery, Municipal Offices, 10 to 1, 2 to 4.30 (ends today).

Art and Crafts by residents of Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant, 10 to 5.30 (ends today).

Lightening Strikes - The Art of Fine Marbling, Living Art, 35 Kenway Road, SW5; Tues to Fri 1.30-6.30, Sat 10 to 2, closed Sun (until April 19).

Bronze sculptures by David Backhouse, Garden Studio, 22 Calvert Rd, SW10; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, 10 to 2, closed Sun (until April 19).

Concert by Konstanty Kulka and Wilfried Boettcher, with the Bourne-mouth Symphony Orchestra, Guildhall, Southampton, 8.

Concert by Musica Aniqua of London, Edgell College, Bideford, Devon, 8.

Concert by Northern Sinfonia, Town Hall, Middlesbrough, 7.45.

Concert by Stanislaw Skrowaczewski and Erich Grunberg, Worcester Cathedral, Worcester, 7.30.

Music in London  
Concert by London Symphony Orchestra, Barbican Hall, Barbican Centre, EC2, 1.

Concert by London Symphony Orchestra, with Stephen Hough (piano) and Norman Del Mar (conductor), Barbican Hall, Barbican Centre, EC2, 8.

Concert by Arborea Musica, St James's Church, Piccadilly, W1, 7.30.

Piano recital by John Jansson, Lauderdale House, Waterloo Park, Highgate Hill, N6, 8.

### Food prices

A television campaign by the Sea Fish Industry Authority is due to start this summer to "familiarise consumers with the potential of herring as a food." This will coincide with the reopening of extensive areas of the North Sea off the English and Scottish coasts for herring fishing, which have been closed for conservation reasons for the last few years.

Most consumers are used to 25 are relevant to buy fish anyway and it is hoped that the work of the authority's senior home economist, Miss Kay Martin, on new recipes will revive the public's interest in fish and particularly in herring.

This week fish prices are higher due to storms at sea and poor catches. Bone herring is one of the exceptions averaging about 87p a pound, 5p cheaper than last week.

There is an increase of about 3p on most varieties but cod filets are up as much as 20p a pound. Pooled prawns at £3.32 a pound are down by about 6p.

Most consumption is down by 6 per cent on 1983 which must worry the meat producers and probably accounts for the many bargains available in shops and supermarkets.

Some retail prices may be up by a penny a pound. Top side and silver side range from £1.89 to £2.30 a pound and boneless brisket £1.30 a pound. Lamb prices are up yet again by about a penny or two a pound and this shows on lamb chops ranging from £1.70 to £2.44 a pound.

The price of onions at between 20 and 32p a pound, carrots 12 to 22p, potatoes 14 to 25p, have shown an increase again this week but leeks and cauliflower are a little cheaper at 45 to 60 pence a pound.

Avocados at 20 to 60p each according to size and a good buy. Best apple buys from the wide selection available are English Cox's 35 to 50p a pound, French Golden Delicious 22 to 35p a pound and British Columbia red delicious 35 to 45p a pound.

The price of eggs is going up by 3p a dozen on Monday on sizes one to four.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	1.61	1.53
Austria Sch	27.50	25.90
Belgium Fr	82.25	78.25
Canada \$	1.91	1.84
Denmark Kr	14.25	13.55
Finland Mk	8.38	7.98
France Fr	11.86	11.36
Germany DM	3.86	3.68
Greece Dr	161.00	151.00
Hongkong \$	11.65	11.05
Ireland Pt	127	121
Italy Lira	240.00	230.00
Japan Yen	340.00	320.00
Netherlands Gld	4.38	4.16
Norway Kr	11.33	10.73
Portugal Esc	197.00	187.00
South Africa Rd	1.97	1.83
Spain Pta	216.50	207.50
Sweden Kr	11.65	11.05
Switzerland Fr	3.23	3.06
USA \$	1.49	1.44
Yugoslavia Dnr	184.00	174.00

Rates for retail conversion bank notes only, at 100 to 1. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency.

Retail Price Index: 344.00 London: The FT Index closed up 6.6 at 881.8.

### Roads

Midlands: A6: Closed, diversion between Leicester and Derby at Kegworth: A49: Single line traffic, temporary signals at junction A456 at Woodlinton, Shropshire. A445: Lane closures east and westbound along Bury St Edmunds by pass. North: A1: Safety barriers being erected between Micklefield and Wetherby. A6: Only one lane southbound, northbound unaffected at Wetherby. A689: Improvement work between Newton Bevis and Caxton Bank, Cleveland.

Wales and West A470: Subsidence. 24 hour temporary traffic signals between Welling Wells and Llyswen at Erwood. A470: North and southbound carriageway lane closures south of Pontypridd, bridge repairs, temporary traffic signals, working hours only at junction 32.

Merthyr Tydfil A55: Ewloe flyover construction, Holywell by pass resurfacing. 24 hour temporary signals between Chester to Colwyn Bay.

Scotland: A8: Water main replacement, width restrictions at High Street, Saltmarket. A76: Realignment work, single lane traffic and temporary traffic signals south of junction with A719, south-east of Kilmarlock. A84: Improvements, single lane at south end of Loch Lubnaig south of Strathgry.

Information supplied by AA

### The papers

The Daily Mirror says that "South Africa is ruled by an evil regime and when the bosses of English rugby vote today to send a team there they will be voting to support that evil. They will put out the usual guilt-ridden excuses. But ignore them."

The paper adds: "Blacks have no votes, no MPs and no future. Their leader, Nelson Mandela, has been in prison without trial for 16 years. That is the kind of society which English rugby will prop up with their talents. In so doing, they will not damage apartheid but strengthen it."

### Top films

The top box-office films in London:  
1 (1) Terms of Endearment  
2 (2) To Be or Not To Be  
3 (3) Champions  
4 (4) Uncut Gems  
5 (5) The Dresser  
6 (6) Risky Business  
7 (7) Trading Places  
8 (8) The Untouchables  
9 (9) The Untouchables  
10 (10) La Bamba

The top films in the provinces:  
1 Terms of Endearment  
2 To Be or Not To Be  
3 The Untouchables  
4 La Bamba  
5 Risky Business  
6 Trading Places  
7 The Untouchables  
8 The Untouchables  
9 The Untouchables  
10 The Untouchables

Supplied by Screen International

Top video rentals

1 (2) Raiders of the Lost Ark  
2 (3) Flashdance  
3 (4) The Untouchables  
4 (5) The Untouchables  
5 (6) The Untouchables  
6 (7) The Untouchables  
7 (8) The Untouchables  
8 (9) The Untouchables  
9 (10) The Untouchables  
10 (11) The Untouchables

Compiled by Screen International

## Weather forecast

A depression over S Norway will remain slow moving, with a rather cold N to NW airstream covering most areas.

### 6am to midnight

London, SE, SW, CN, S, Can N England, Midlands, S Wales, Channel Islands: A low early fog patches, then sunny periods and isolated showers, wind NW light, max temp 10C (50F).

E Anglia, E, NE England, Borders: Rather cloudy with showers and a few sunbursts, wind NW moderate, max temp 10C (50F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, SW Scotland, Argyll, N Ireland: Showers, mainly drizzle, with sunbursts, wind NW mainly light, max temp 8C (46F).

Aberdeen, Can Highlands, Moray Firth, NW Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy with showers, heavy and windy at times, wind N strong locally gale, max temp 8C (46F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Generally similar with sunny intervals and showers, but more general rain and cloud may reach parts of the S. Remaining rather cold.

SEA PASSAGES: S, North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind, W to NW becoming variable light to moderate; showers; visibility, good; sea, slight. St George's Channel, Irish Sea, Wind, mainly NW light; mainly fair; visibility, good; sea, smooth.

Sun rises: 6.40 am Sun sets: 7.31 pm  
Moon rises: 6.37 am Moon sets: 5.15 pm  
New Moon: April 1

Lighting-up time

London 8.01 pm to 8.08 am  
Bristol 8.10 pm to 8.18 am  
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 8.18 am  
Manchester 8.11 pm to 8.15 am  
Penzance 8.21 pm to 8.31 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: a, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 7.1 am to 7 pm, 8C (46F); min 7 pm to 7 am, 5C (41F). Humidity: 8 pm, 59 per cent. Wind: 20 to 30 mph, 0.2 to 0.3 m/s. Sun: 24 to 10 pm, 3.2 to 5 pm, 0.2 to 0.3 m/s, 1,011.3 mbars, range, 1,000 mbars to 1,023.3 mbars.

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## Weather forecast

A depression over S Norway will remain slow moving, with a rather cold N to NW airstream covering most areas.

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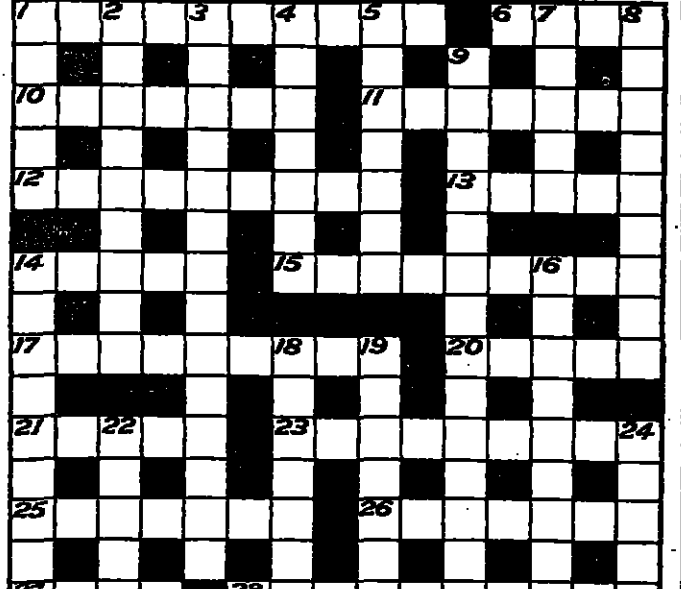
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## The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,392



### ACROSS

- Falling off in the organization of cases (10).
- Severe sort of test for one like Spain's national hero (4).
- Engraver's tool for an incompetent fiddler (7).
- One of the main means of securing stability (7).
- Has he appeared at the bar? He's tried, certainly (9).
- Oddly enough, this wasn't the road to Mandalay (5).
- Law officer with rough-sounding partner (5).
- Poor man? Target for a scabbing woman (9).
- Last month in Dunedin maybe, endlessly irresolute (9).
- Drunkard could return to shoot again (5).
- Girl's firm has music date (5).
- Turkish title for Finnish, Norwegian and Danish leaders, say (7).
- Varsity type about to interrupt neat Scotsman (7).
- Name of forest heads the chapter (4).
- Certainly appropriate to the kitchen, this instrument (10).

### DOWN

- Treated medically? The same, but in Latin (5).